5

WANTED LISTEN TO ME!

HIROAKI SAMURA

HIROAKI

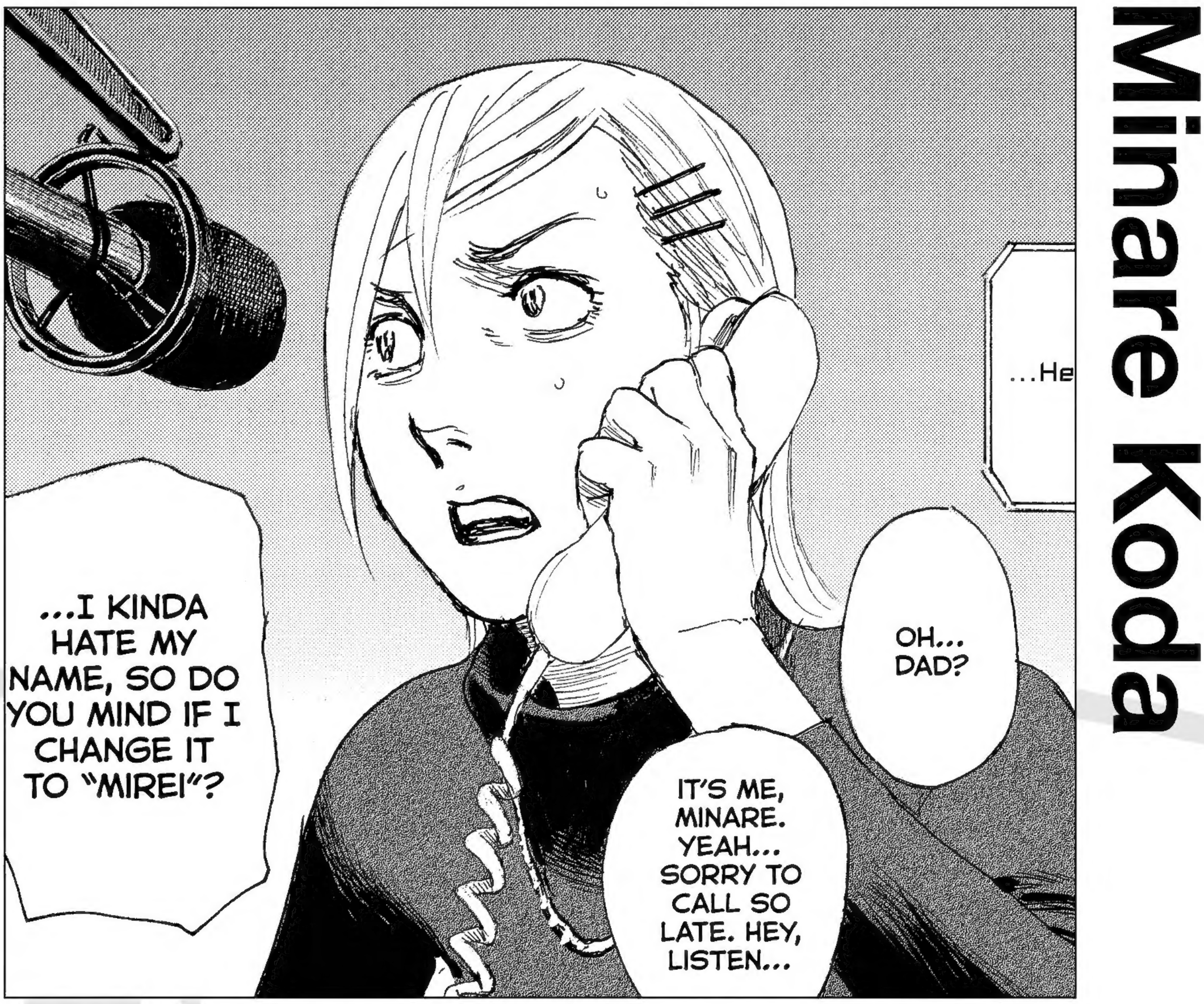
5

SAMURA

LISTEN
TO ME!

S T O R Y & C A S T

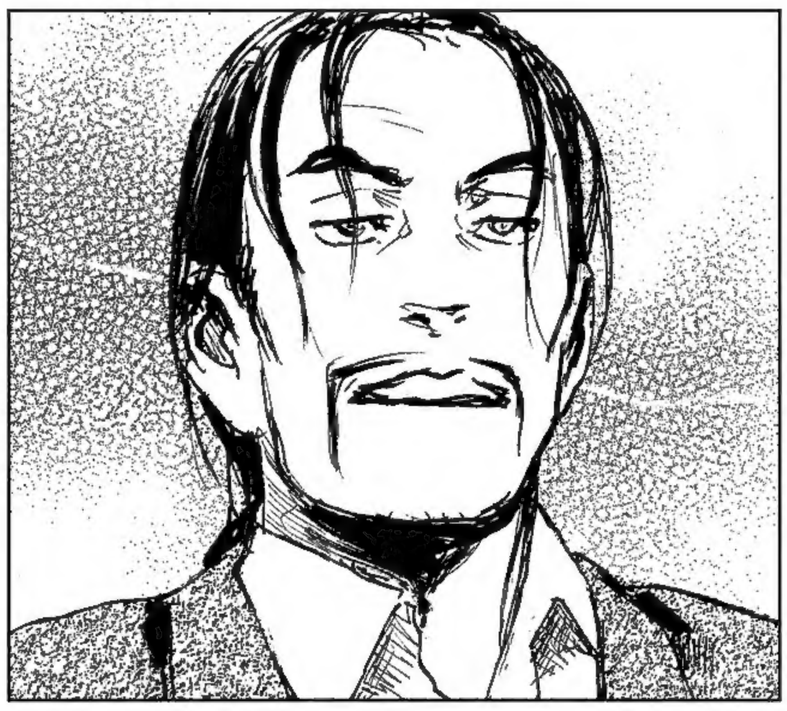
Sapporo, Hokkaido. One night at a bar, Minare Koda has her heartbroken ramblings secretly recorded by a local FM radio station director, Mato, who then airs the audio over the air the following day. Minare storms into the station, only to then be duped by Mato into doing an impromptu talk show explaining her harsh dialogue. As it turns out, the segment was a hit, leading to Minare getting her own show. One day, veteran scriptwriter Kureko announces he's switching career paths and begins planning a trip to gather material for a new book, to which his secret admirer, Mizuho, volunteers to act as his assistant. Somehow, Minare ends up tagging along with them to record the whole process.



The protagonist. Kushiro-born Sapporo resident. Currently 26 and single. Her day job is working as a waitress at the soup curry restaurant VOYAGER, but with her termination over the horizon, she's scrambling to make a living as a radio DJ.

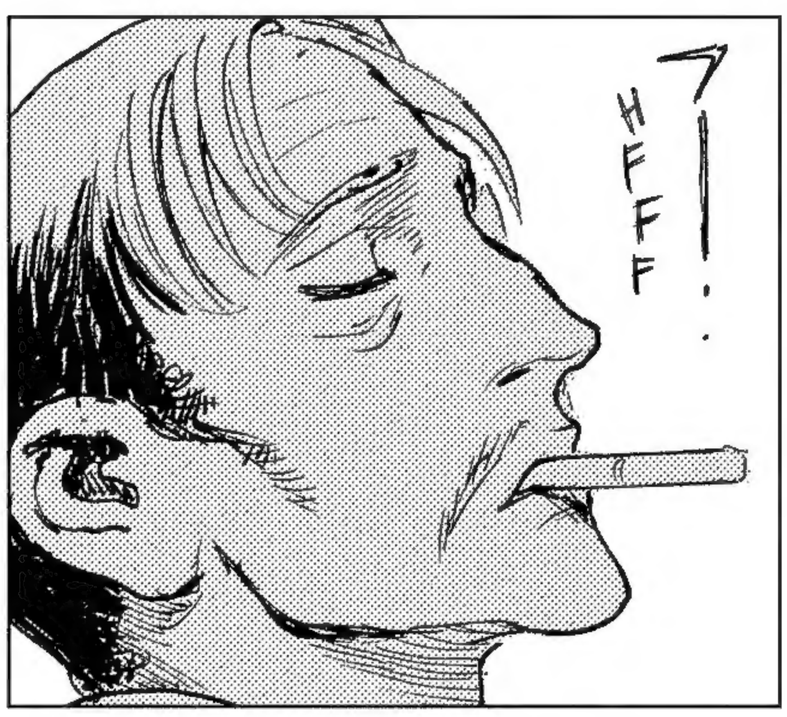
Mizuho Nanba

Assistant director at MRS. Currently letting Minare stay with her after she was kicked out of her apartment. Wife material.



Kanetsugu Mato

Director of FM station "Moiwayama Radio" (MRS). Saw potential in Minare's conversation skills and scouted her for the radio business.



Katsumi Kureko

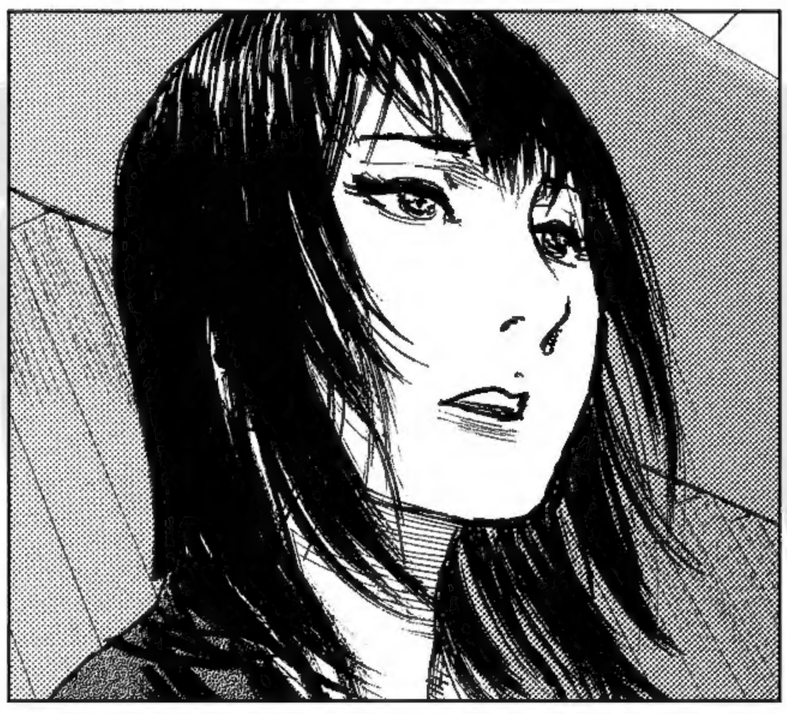
A veteran scriptwriter for MRS and an established novelist. He and Mato go way back.

Chuuya Nakahara

An employee at VOYAGER. Supposedly in love with Minare, but invited Makie to stay at his place.

Madoka Chishiro

DJ at MRS. A highly skilled talker and close "friend" of Kureko's. Excels at provocative dialogue.



Makie Tachibana

A beautiful woman working at VOY-AGER to help pay for the car accident caused by her brother. Not the most skilled swordsman in the manga, nor does she wield a three-section spear.

Chapter 33 「I WON'T LOSE.」 005

Chapter 34 「I DON'T WANT TO BE FOOLED.」 027

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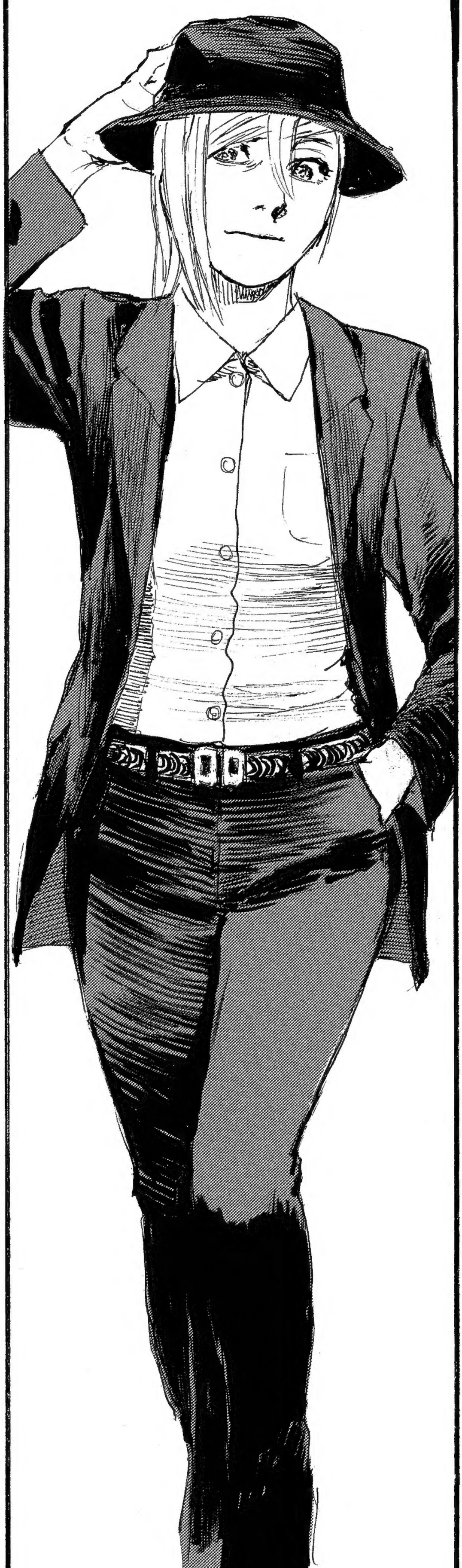
CHENG
WAS A STRATEGIST SERVING
GONG
UNDER THE WARLORD HAN SUI
YING
DURING THE LATE HAN DYNASTY

Chapter 33 「I WON'T LOSE!」



CHENG
AS A STRATEG
GONG
NDER THE W
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P THE LAT

MINARE-SAN, DRESSING UP FOR THE TRIP IS FINE AND ALL,

NO MATTER WHAT I WEAR, THE ONLY ONES WHO'LL SEE ARE AN EROTIC NOVEL AUTHOR AND WOODLAND CRITTERS!

THIS IS BULLSHIT!

SO, WHERE ARE WE GOING AGAIN? DARJEELING, WAS IT?

DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT IT COVERED.

BUT WE'LL PROBABLY BE WALKING THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS, SO DON'T FORGET TO PACK SWEATS OR SOMETHING.

AND THREE OF THOSE TIMES, I TOLD YOU THAT JOKE DOESN'T WORK UNLESS YOU SAY, "ASSAM"!

WASSAMU! I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU LIKE FOUR TIMES!

*ASSAM AND DARJEELING ARE BOTH TYPES OF TEA.

ALSO, SEE HOW THE CONTOUR LINES ARE HIGH AROUND HERE?

THANKFULLY, IT'S CLOSE TO TOWN, AND ASAHIKAWA'S JUST HALF AN HOUR AWAY.

PLUS, EVEN THOUGH WE WANT SOMETHING ABANDONED,

IN TERMS OF TERRAIN, IT'S JUST THE KIND OF MOUNTAIN VILLAGE I'M LOOKING FOR.

THE TORYO-TOWA DISTRICT OF WASSAMU.

OUT OF THESE, I THINK HERE'LL WORK BEST.

THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH HOUSES LEFT TO GET A PICTURE OF WHAT THE TOWN USED TO BE LIKE.

LOOKING AT THE FILES,

IT WON'T BE MUCH HELP IF WE GET THERE AND THE TOWN'S ALL BUT GONE.

FOR SOME-ONE WHO'S SUPPOSEDLY BROKE, WHY DOES SHE BUY STUFF LIKE THAT?

IF YOU WANNA ROUGH IT ALONE, I WON'T STOP YOU.

I'VE BEEN WANTING TO USE THE HEIMPLANET TENT I BOUGHT LAST YEAR.

OH! LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A CAMPSITE AROUND THERE!

TURTLE SITTERS FALL THROUGH?

OH... I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO ASK.

NO, IT'S FINE. TAKE IT EASY.

SAY HI TO UNCLE AND HIDE-CHAN FOR ME. OKAY, BYE.

REALLY?

I SEE. WELL, THAT'S A PROBLEM...

OH, NOTHING. JUST TALKING TO MY-SELF.

Anything for the woman I love.

WORRY NOT. JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.

UH-OH.

I GUESS THEY'RE GONNA BE VISITING SOME RELATIVES WHO RUN A HOT-SPRING INN IN NIIGATA.

MUST BE NICE HAVING RELATIVES WITH PERKS LIKE THAT, THOUGH.

MIND IF I ASK YOU A FAVOR?

HEY, NAKA-HARA-KUN?

As Usual

HEY, GUYS.

SORRY TO ASK YOU THIS OUT OF THE BLUE.

Turtle Food

HELLOOO.

OH, FROM SOFUAN? I LOVE THAT STORE.

WE BROUGHT SOME TREATS FOR EVERY-ONE.

WHEW. TALK ABOUT DRESSING LIGHTLY...

AH...! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!

I WON'T ASK YOU TO DO *EVERYTHING*, SINCE WE KINDA SPRUNG THIS ON YOU...

OH, OKAY. THANK GOD...

HERE'S THE SIMPLIFIED VERSION!

*Please feed them as instructed below!

- There are chicken tenders in the chill chest. They come in packs of two, but I only use one. Please cut the tender into 1 cm chunks (fingernail size) before giving it to them. It's okay to dump it all in at once!
- The one who eats the most out of the three is Hodokon. If you leave him alone he'll eat half of everything. The one who suff the most from this is Fur looks like he isn't gettin to eat, give her some o sea slug in the fridge (plate). But if you just Hodokon will eat all of chopstick to dangle it i Furakan's face, please. does what he wants and his own pace, so you don't worry about him.

Sometimes food gets stuck to the side of the acrylic tank. If the turtles try to eat it they'll bump their noses against the tank and might hurt themselves. If that happens, use chopsticks to drop the food into the water, please.

After the sun goes down, cover the front and top of the tank with shades (they're on the shelf in the closet).

Thanks so m

...

COOL.

HERE, NAKA-HARA-KUN.

THESE ARE THE TURTLE CARE DIREC-TIONS MIZUHO WROTE FOR ME BEFORE.

UMM. MEIKO-SAN, WAS IT?

IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.

ARE YOU KODA-SAN? CHUUYA'S TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, ASK AWAY.

...IT LOOKS IDENTI-CAL.

THIS IS KINDA RANDOM,

BUT WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A MAN, KODA-SAN?

OF WHAT?

...YEAH, I CAN SEE THE APPEAL.

?

HMM...

I USED TO GO FOR GUYS WHO WERE A LITTLE SLOPPY AS LONG AS THEY WERE CUTE ABOUT IT.

AS FOR ON THE INSIDE, WELL...

BUT NOW...

I SEE... SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE SPEAKING FROM EXPERI-ENCE.

...I THINK DISHONEST MEN ARE THE SCUM OF THE EARTH!

SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE KAKURYU*.

OH-HO. GOOD TASTE.

*RIKISABURO KAKURYU, A MONGOLIAN-BORN SUMO WRESTLER.

OR AT LEAST BRING FRIENDS WITHOUT TAINTED SOULS.

NO WAY. YOU BETTER COME BY YOURSELF, MIZUHO!

WILL DO!

BRING THE FOLKS FROM THE STATION BY THE STORE AGAIN SOME-TIME.

NO PROBLEM.

THANKS AGAIN FOR LOOKING AFTER THEM.

PARDON?

The room looks different.

I FEEL FOR YOU, TACHIBANA-SAN.

Hey, knock it off!

THAT GIRL LOOKS LIKE A TOUGH RIVAL.

...YES.

YES... YOU'RE RIGHT.

IT'D BE ONE THING IF YOU BOTH FELL INTO THE SAME CATEGORY, AT LEAST...

BOTH AT VOYAGER,

AND...

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY...

...I WANT TO BEAT HER ON THE SAME LEVEL.

Desired order

1 Sapporo curry XXXX
Minare Koda

2 Sapporo curry
Makie Tachibana

3 Sapporo curry
Yoshiki Takarada

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS WHILE YOU'RE WAITING.

?

IS DINNER ALMOST READY?

I'M GONNA GO GRAB SOME BEER.

IT'LL BE ANOTHER 30 MINUTES.

MRS

I'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS I HAVE GPS ONCE WE TAKE THE WASSAMU EXIT OFF THE EXPRESSWAY.

NAH, YOU CAN TAKE THE BACK IF YOU WANT.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL RIDE SHOTGUN.

SURE. HAVE A GOOD TRIP.

MINARE.

WELL, WE'RE OFF.

SUP?

I'LL JUST PLAY THAT BIT WE WENT AHEAD AND RECORDED.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT RUSHING BACK IF THINGS TAKE LONGER THAN PLANNED.

...I'LL BE BACK, EVEN IF KUREKO-SAN GETS HIS LEG CRUSHED IN A ROCKSLIDE AND I HAVE TO LEAVE HIM TO SUFFER.

OH, YEAH. YOU WEREN'T THERE, HUH, MIZUHO?

WHAT BIT WAS HE TALKING ABOUT?

WE RECORDED A SHOW ON ONE OF MY DAYS OFF IN CASE I GOT SICK OR SOMETHING.

IT WAS SURPRISINGLY CHEAP. ANYWAY, ANSWER ME! SAY YOU'LL MARRY ME...

WHAT?, WHO AM I? YOU DUMBASS. I'M ONE OF THE GUYS FROM THE OFFICE ACROSS FROM YOUR APARTMENT. I WATCH YOU EVERY DAY! YOU ALREADY HAVE A FIANCÉ? I KNOW THAT! IT'S THAT PUNK TSUCHIDA FROM FUJINAGA CO., RIGHT? THE DUDE WHO LOOKS LIKE HE CAME FROM CHIBA PREFECTURE. I CAN FIGURE OUT THAT MUCH IN A DAY. DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE YAKUZA. OH, YEAH. TSUCHIDA HAS A LITTLE SISTER, DOESN'T HE? ONE WHO GOES TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL. SHE'S A LOOKER, THAT ONE. *HEH, HEH...* OH, NOTHIN'. JUST TALKING TO MYSELF. ANYWAY, YOU'RE MARRYING ME ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. GET THAT...

"A VERY YAKUZA PROPOSAL". ENOUGH, JUST ANSWER ME ALREADY! WELL? I'M ASKIN' YOU TO MARRY ME! DAIGO'S NEXT TO ME? HELL NO, HE AIN'T! ARE YOU SCREWIN' WITH ME? I'M SWEATING BULLETS HERE DOIN' MY BEST TO MAKE THE MOOD RIGHT, Y'KNOW. SHOW A LITTLE SINCERITY, WILL YA? I EVEN CALLED THE CHIEKO KINBARA STRINGS INTO THE OFFICE TO HYPE THINGS UP. *THE* KINBARA STRINGS! NOW THE OTHER GUYS ARE LAUGHING AT ME! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH IT COSTS TO HIRE THEM? I COULD BUY JUNYA'S LIVER WITH THAT MONEY! WHAT, YOU DON'T KNOW JUNYA? HE'S ONE OF THE YOUNGER GUYS WHO FUCKED UP THE OTHER DAY.

ANY-HOW, HEY, MIZUHO.

I WANNA DOUBLE-CHECK WHERE WE'RE STAYING TONIGHT...

OH, SURE.

SAR-CASM

ALL OF MY SHOWS ARE AWFUL, KUREKO-SAN...

THAT'S SOME AWFUL CONTENT.

SOUNDS NEAT!

LET'S SEE... WE CHECK IN TO THE WBF GRANDE ASHIKAWA HOTEL AT 6.

FINE BY ME. THAT'S PERFECT, ACTUALLY.

SORRY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO SHARE A ROOM, MINARE-SAN.

HUH?!

UM... Y-YEAH...

YOU WANT SOME ALONE TIME WITH KUREKO-SAN AT NIGHT, RIGHT?

HM? UHH...

what plan?

LET'S WORK OUT A PLAN FOR TONIGHT, THEN.

I MEAN,

QUIT PUTTING WORDS IN MY MOUTH! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "UM... Y-YEAH"?!

KUREKO-SAN'LL PROBABLY GO RIGHT TO BED AFTER HAVING A DRINK AT THE BAR, SO YOU SHOULD JOIN HIM AND STRIKE UP SOME CONVERSATION.

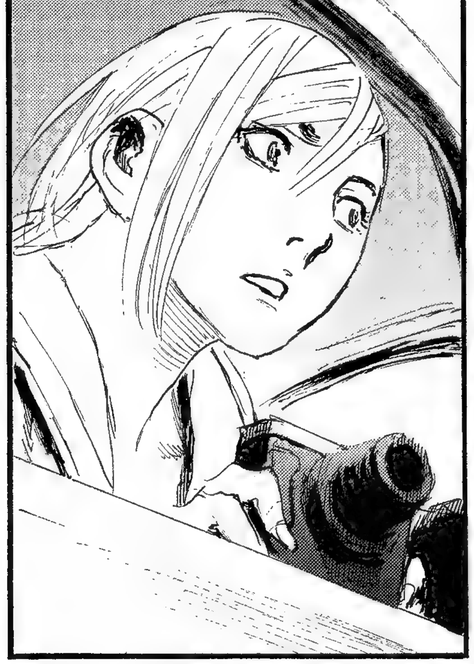
THEN, NOT EVEN THE PERPETUALLY COOL KUREKO-SAN'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY DUMB AND INVITE YOU TO DRINK IN HIS ROOM.

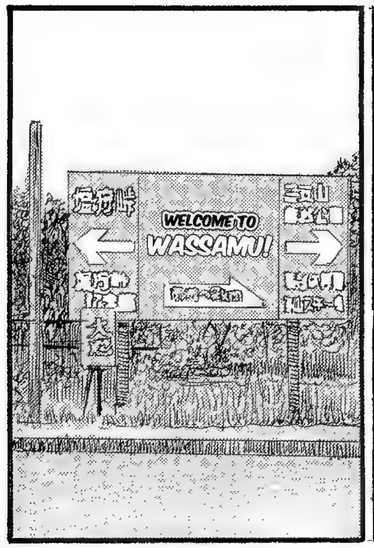
AND WHEN YOU DO, IT JUST SO HAPPENS I'LL HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP WITH THE DOOR LOCKED! I'LL HANG ON TO THE KEY, OF COURSE.

MINARE-SAN!

DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU TALK ABOUT. SEGMENTS ON BOOGIE-WOOGIE RADIO YOU THOUGHT WERE GOOD, ANYTHING...

THEN, COME BACK TO THE ROOM AFTER GETTING PLASTERED TOGETHER.





WASSAMU, KAMIKAWA SUBPREFECTURE

DON'T GET SO WORKED UP OVER COWS. DON'T YOU HAVE ANY PRIDE AS A HOKKAIDOAN?

TURN AROUND! I SAW LIKE TEN COWS BACK THERE!

OH, HELLO. THIS IS NANBA FROM MOIWAYAMA RADIO.

WE JUST PARKED OUTSIDE OF THE TOWN HALL. MAY I ASK WHERE YOU ARE?

AHH. FINALLY.

YOUR CAR SUCKS FOR TAKING NAPS IN, KUREKO-SAN.

LIKE I GIVE A DAMN.

THE LIBRARY?

WHERE IS THE LIBRARY?

NO, WE'LL HEAD THAT WAY.

ACROSS THE STREET?!

OH, YOU CAN SEE US?!

HOWDY.

HELLO. THANKS FOR COMING OUT!

PACK-ING HEAT

OH, SURE.

IT'S A LARGE AREA, SO IF WE COULD NARROW DOWN OUR STOPS, THAT'D BE A BIG HELP.

I THOUGHT I'D COPY ONE OF THE OLD MAPS OF THE TORYO-TOWA AREA BEFORE WE HEAD OUT.

HI, THERE.

MY NAME'S HOKAKUSHI. I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE TODAY.

I'VE COME TO THE TORYO-TOWA AREA OF WASSAMU TO RESEARCH DEPOPULATED VILLAGES.

GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE. *WAVE, LISTEN TO ME'S* MINARE KODA HERE.

SO, TODAY,

BY THE WAY, I TRIED IMITATING YUKA KINO-SHITA* WITH THAT INTRO.

ARE YOU DOING A RADIO SHOW ABOUT WASSAMU?

I CAME TO GATHER MATERIAL FOR A BOOK I'M WRITING. SORRY.

ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT FOR THE RADIO.

*YUKA KINOSHITA: A YOUTUBE VLOGGER WHO SPECIALISES IN EATING GRATUITOUS PORTIONS OF FOOD.

OH, THAT... THERE USED TO BE A 1,000-YEAR OLD MONGOLIAN OAK TREE THERE, BUT THE HEAVY SNOW IN 2012 KNOCKED IT OVER.

I WOULDN'T SUGGEST STOPPING THERE. BEARS HAVE TAKEN UP RESI-DENCE.

HEY, IT SAYS THERE'S A MASSIVE TREE OVER THERE.

DO YOU SEE A LOT OF BROWN BEARS AROUND HERE?

THEIR PEAK SEASON STARTS AROUND NOW AND ENDS AT THE START OF NOVEMBER,

BUT THE VILLAGE SITE WE'RE HEADING MOSTLY HAS PAVED ROADS, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.

I HEAR THEIR WEAK POINT'S THEIR NOSE.

YOU DEFINITELY HAVE A BOYFRIEND, RIGHT, HOKAKUSHI-SAN?

I'VE BEEN SINGLE EVER SINCE I GOT DUMPED THREE YEARS AGO.

DEFINITELY? I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE EXPECTING.

...

EVEN WITH THOSE GUNGNIR-CLASS BA-ZINGAS?!

THE LAST THING MY EX TOLD ME WAS, "I NEVER TOLD YOU, BUT I'VE BEEN TRAUMATIZED BY BIG TITS EVER SINCE I WAS A KID."

SORRY, MIZUHO. I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED...

WHY'D YOU PASS THE BALL TO ME?

OH, LOOK. A FOX.

IT'S FINE. THE FIRST DAY'S MORE LIKE LOCATION HUNTING, ANYWAY.

THINK OF IT LIKE CHARGING UP FOR THE DAYS TO COME.

I DIDN'T GET TO SHOW YOU AROUND MUCH TODAY...

ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO JOIN YOU?

UHH. WE'RE CURRENTLY AT THE OLDEST *SUKIYAKI** RESTAURANT IN ASHIKAWA.

*SUKIYAKI: A JAPANESE DISH CONSISTING OF BEEF, VEGETABLES, AND OTHER INGREDIENTS SIMMERED IN A SOY SAUCE-BASED BROTH.

WHY IS OUR GUIDE JOINING US, YOU ASK?

BECAUSE APPAR-ENTLY, SHE LIVES IN ASHIKAWA.

I READ CONTINENTAL PUBLISHING'S *300* WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL.

NEVER HAD SOMEONE CALL ME "THE" BEFORE, BUT YEAH.

WHAT?!

YOU'RE *THE* HISAKI KURE, KUREKO-SAN?!

RAPE IN YOUR MAIDEN WORK, HUH? WELL, WELL, WELL.

I REALLY LIKED HOW KING LEONIDAS USED THE TERRAIN TO RAVAGE THE PERSIAN GIRLS.

MAN, HOW EMBAR-RASSING. THAT WAS MY MAIDEN FULL-LENGTH BOOK.

IT WAS INTRIGUING TO SEE WESTERN HISTORICAL SCENES USED IN AN EROTIC NOVEL.

An avid reader, huh?

WELL, I'VE READ LIKE 15 OF HIS NOVELS!

THUD!!

THE BOOZE MIGHT BE GETTING TO HER...

MIZUHO DECIDES TO LOCK HORNS FROM AN UNEXPECTED ANGLE.

YOU USE "SWOON" A LOT TO DESCRIBE PEOPLE FAINTING, RIGHT, KUREKO-SAN? I REALLY LIKE THAT PHRASING.

NOW WE'RE GETTING DEEP INTO THE EROTIC NOVEL TALK.

OH... THAT'S PROBABLY TADAO CHIGUSA RUBBING OFF ON ME.

OH, REALLY?

NANBA... I'D REALLY RATHER NOT BLOW THIS TOPIC UP EVEN MORE.

HUH... YOU CAN TELL?

TRY USING EVEN A FRACTION OF THAT INTUITION ON REAL WOMAN!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "HUH, YOU CAN TELL"?!

I HAD A FEELING YOU WERE A FAN OF TADAO CHIGUSA.

I THOUGHT THE WAY YOU FOCUSED ON THE NUANCES OF WOMEN'S FEELINGS AND PSYCHOLOGY WAS SIMILAR TO HIS.

GIMME A BREAK. THAT WAS A THROWAWAY PIECE I WROTE OVER 20 YEARS AGO.

DIDN'T YOU WRITE A ONE-SHOT WHERE YOU LIKENED THE PRIVATES OF EVERY WOMAN YOU'VE SLEPT WITH TO CUTS OF BEEF?

KNOCK IT OFF! YOU'RE GONNA MAKE ME LOSE MY APPETITE!

10 PM, ASHIKAWA. BOTH THE CONVERSATION AND SWEATER CONTENTS ARE PACKED WITH MEAT.

THE WAITRESS STANDS SILENTLY IN THE AWKWARD ATMOSTPHERE.

WHAT CUT OF MEAT AM I, THEN?!

EVERYONE SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN THEIR JOB!

PREMIUM SKIRT STEAK, MAYBE?

HELL IF I KNOW...

Chapter 34 「I DON'T WANT TO BE FOOLED.」

THIS IS THE WASTE DISPOSAL PLANT.

HUH...

IT WAS BUILT IN 2002 ON THE FORMER SITE OF THE PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THAT CLOSED DOWN IN 1976.

SMELLS PRETTY RANK. CAN THE LOCAL SHOPS DO BUSINESS LIKE THIS?

AH. I SEE...

UNFORTU-NATELY, THEY ALL CLOSED DOWN OVER A DECADE AGO...

ACTUALLY, DO YOU THINK I COULD INTERVIEW HIM ABOUT LIFE BACK THEN?

ABSO-LUTELY. I'M SURE HE'D LOVE TO TALK TO YOU.

MY FATHER GRADUAT-ED FROM THE ELE-MENTARY SCHOOL HERE.

YOUR DAD SOUNDS LIKE A DRY GUY.

I DON'T THINK HE HAD ANY STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT IT.

CAN'T SAY I KNOW HOW IT FEELS,

BUT I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE YOUR OLD SCHOOL VANISH WITHOUT A TRACE.

....UH-HUH.

HOKAKUSHI-SAN'S BEING AWFULLY TOUCHY-FEELY.

I DON'T THINK SO.

YES.

THAT'S BLOOD-LUST YOU'RE FEELING.

MIZUHO...

O-OKAY!

BRING ALONG THE RECORDING EQUIPMENT IF YOU WANT.

I'M THINKING OF HEADING INTO THE MOUNTAINS TO SNAP THE ABANDONED HOUSES.

NANBA, KODA.

WHAT IS THIS, AN OLYMPIAN MEDIA SCRUM?

ガシャン CLUNK

カシャ CLICK

カシャ CLICK

IS IT OKAY IF WE WALK ON THE PROPERTY?

I'VE GOTTEN PERMISSION FROM THE HOMES' OWNERS WE COULD TRACK DOWN.

A BEAR COULD SNEAK RIGHT UP ON YOU WITH ALL THIS TALL GRASS.

LOOK, MINARE-SAN. A GROUP OF BUTTERFLIES ARE DRINKING WATER FROM A BARREL.

SNAP

NEAT.

CUT THAT OUT.

SNAP

SWAT

WHAT DID THEY GROW?

POTATOES, EDIBLE CHRYSANTHEMUM, CAULIFLOWER. STUFF LIKE THAT.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWA DISTRICT BEGAN IN 1907,

WHILE THE TORYO DISTRICT WAS DEVELOPED AFTER WORLD WAR II. THE VILLAGE WAS BUILT TO COMBAT THE RISK OF A FOOD SHORTAGE.

WHAT'S WRONG, MINARE-SAN?

CHIK

ABOUT HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE STILL LIVING HERE?

ONLY THREE FAMILIES IN TOWA. TORYO IS NOW CATEGORIZED AS AN ABANDONED VILLAGE.

ARE THERE ANY GHOST STORIES FROM AROUND THESE PARTS, HOKAKUSHI-SAN?

?

HUH?

WHAT DO SOLDIERS HAVE TO DO WITH THE REC-LAMATION?

AHH.

CAN'T YOU THINK OF ANYTHING? LIKE THE GHOST OF A FLEEING SOLDIER WHO HAUNTS THE THE GARBAGE PLANT AT NIGHT.

YOU KNOW, THEY SAY A LOT OF PEOPLE DIED...

WORKERS GETTING ATTACKED BY SWARMS OF LOCUSTS AND SUCH.

...DURING THE MEIJI RECLAMATION OF HOKKAIDO.

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO START SOMETHING?

DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S PUSHING IT?

URBAN?!

I DO-NO

WELL, THERE IS AN URBAN LEGEND CALLED "THE NOVEMBER BUS STOP."

THEY'RE HIDDEN DURING THIS TIME OF YEAR.

I DIDN'T SEE ANY BUS STOPS.

SERI-OUSLY?

AS YOU'VE SEEN OF THE AREA,

DESPITE THAT, CITY BUSES STILL RUN THROUGH HERE THREE TIMES A DAY.

ALL THAT'S LEFT IN TOWA NOW ARE THE HOMES OF THE THREE FAMILIES STILL LIVING HERE AND EMPTY FARMLANDS.

DO THOSE REALLY WORK AT BUS STOPS?

IF YOU SQUINT HARD, YOU CAN SEE THE RED SIGNS THROUGH THE BUSHES THAT GROW UP TO EYE-HEIGHT.

SO, THEY'VE COMPLETELY ABANDONED TAKING CARE OF THEM.

BY THE WAY, EVEN IF YOU BRING IT UP WITH THE ADMINISTRA-TION, THEY'LL JUST TELL YOU, "THERE AREN'T ANY SIGNS IN THAT AREA."

THE LOCALS AND THE DRIVERS KNOW WHERE THEY ARE, SO IT ALL WORKS OUT.

...AND THE BUS STOPS SHOW THEM-SELVES ONCE AGAIN.

THE GREEN-ERY MOSTLY DIES OUT...

TORYO

THAT SAID, COME NOVEMBER,

OF COURSE, NO ONE'S EVER SEEN A BUS RUN THAT LATE.

AND THE ADMINISTRATION INSISTS THAT NO TIMES WERE ADDED.

WHAT'S REALLY REALLY STRANGE IS THAT THE TIME ALWAYS DISAPPEARS BY THE NIGHT OF NEW YEAR'S EVE.

TORYO

7:26 7:38
12:41 12:48
17:31 17:39
0:00

HOW-EVER,

IF YOU LOOK AT THE SCHED-ULE,

YOU'LL OCCASIONALLY SEE AN ADDI-TIONAL LISTING FOR THE OUTRAGEOUS TIME OF MIDNIGHT ON THE DOT.

I TRIED TO STOP HIM, OF COURSE.

BUT HE DIDN'T LISTEN AND ENDED UP WAITING AT THE TORYO BUS STOP AT NIGHT, CAMERA IN HAND.

I MEAN, DOESN'T THAT JUST SOUND FISHY?

NOW, THIS IS FROM PERSONAL EXPERI-ENCE,

BUT MY COUSIN TRIED TO RIDE THAT BUS, YOU SEE.

AND THE NEXT DAY,

Ugh...

HIS BODY WAS FOUND AT TOWA SHRINE.

I MIGHT NEVER BE ABLE TO EAT CAULIFLOWER AGAIN.

TELL ME HOW HIS BODY LOOKED!

WAIT, WHY?!

...I...

I WENT TO CHECK HIS BODY, SINCE WE WERE NEIGHBORS BACK THEN.

HIS CORPSE WAS IN...

...WELL, STRANGE CONDITION, TO SAY THE LEAST.

I'M SERIOUSLY GONNA TWIST YOUR NIPPLES OFF, LADY!

WELL, I JUST MADE UP THE WHOLE THING, THOUGH.

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT A SOMETHING SPOOKY I EXPERI-ENCED JUST YESTERDAY.

ALL RIGHT, THEN.

SHE'S GOOD...

WE ALL STAYED THERE.

YOU MEAN WBF GRANDE ASHIKAWA, RIGHT?

LET'S CALL IT HOTEL G.

IT HAPPENED AT THE HOTEL I STAYED AT.

WELL, WHEN I WENT TO LOWER THE HEAT AFTER I GOT OUT OF THE BATH,

YOU KNOW HOW THE THERMO-STAT...

...USES A PANEL ON THE WALL, RIGHT?

ON THE LCD DISPLAY...

HEAT

DEAD IN BED

I LOOKED OVER TO THE BED, AND WHAT DO I SEE?

THEN, WHILE SCRATCH-ING MY HEAD,

"DEAD IN BED"?

IS THAT SOME KINDA MORBID NEW SETTING?

A MAN LYING DEAD ON TOP OF IT.

AND LOOKING CLOSELY,

I SAW THAT IT WAS NONE OTHER THAN THE COMEDIAN I WAS JUST WATCHING ON TV.

WELL, IT WAS ALL JUST A DREAM, THOUGH.

I WAS IN THE ROOM THE WHOLE TIME.

NO SHIT.

BUT Y'KNOW, GATHERING MATERIAL ON DEPOPULATED VILLAGES IS PROVING TO BE MORE BORING THAN I IMAGINED.

WHAT *WERE* YOU EXPECTING?

I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH FOOTAGE WE'LL BE ABLE TO USE.

MINARE-SAN!

I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED WE WON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO WORK WITH, BUT THERE'S NO POINT IF THE INTEREST DEVIATES FROM THE ORIGINAL THEME.

BUT WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO FOR MY SHOW?!

HELL IF I KNOW. CRY TO MATO.

I MEAN, THAT'S FINE FOR YOUR BOOK AND ALL,

DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE ASKING FOR A BIT MUCH?

AS SOON AS I STARTED TALKING, I THOUGHT, "DO *ANY* SHOWS LIKE THAT EXIST?"

HONESTLY, YES...

MIZUHO...

ISN'T THAT WHAT MAKES TOP-CLASS RADIO JOURNALISM?!

EVEN IF WE'RE IN AN UNDER-POPULATED REGION WITH-OUT ANY SIGNS OF LIFE AND NO ACCESS TO VIDEO,

WE HAVE TO MAKE A REPORT THAT'LL ENTICE THE LISTENERS USING ONLY AUDIO!

AFTER ALL, DON'T RADIO LISTENERS...

...USUALLY HOPE THAT THE HOST WILL GO OFF THE RAILS EVENTUALLY?

BY STARTING WITH A GHOST STORY ABOUT WASSAMU,

YOU CAN SET A PRETEXT TO TRANSITION INTO YOUR OWN STORY.

I THINK IT'S A DECENT IDEA.

I'VE WORKED WITH A HOST WHO WOULD CAREFULLY TUNE HIS GUESTS' TANGENTS, AND BOY...

IT TAKES THE FUN OUT OF EVERYTHING WHEN YOU REALIZE THE SHOW WILL NEVER EXCEED YOUR EXPECTATIONS.

HE WAS SO ANAL ABOUT EVERYTHING AND WOULD SAY, "BUT WE'RE GETTING AWAY FROM THE TOPIC," IF THINGS DIGRESSED EVEN A LITTLE BIT.

...WAS BECAUSE I HOPED TO BUILD A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH MRS.

ADMITTEDLY, THE REASON I ACCEPTED THIS JOB...

...DO YOU WORK IN BROADCASTING?

YES. I'M THE HEAD OF PR AT OUR COMPANY.

I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH MANY MEDIA OUTLETS.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO SOONER?

I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO A FIRST-RATE DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER LATER.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. SORRY, IT KIND OF FEELS LIKE I'M RUSHING THINGS ALONG.

TOO BAD HE'S AN OLD, BORDERLINE CRIMINAL WHO TRICKED AN UNSUSPECTING WOMAN AND DRAGGED HER INTO THE INDUSTRY.

OH!

OH, YEAH. AS I WAS SAYING...

I THINK IT'S A SIGN YOU'RE SO ROTTEN THAT EVEN IN THE EVENT OF AN INCIDENT, YOU'D WANT SOMEONE TO TAKE THE FALL FOR YOU AND PROTECT YOU UNCONDITIONALLY.

AFTER I FOUND THE BODY, KAKURYU* BURST INTO THE ROOM AND TOOK ME IN HIS ARMS. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS? THINK IT'S SOME KIND OF OMEN?

*KAKURYU RIKISABURO: MINARE'S SUMO CRUSH.

OH, YEAH?

KUREKO-SAN. ABOUT THE INTER-VIEW.

HE'S WONDERING IF YOU'RE FREE TO TALK NOW. WHAT DO YOU SAY?

MY FATHER SAYS HE'D LOVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT OLD WASSAMU.

YES, IT'S JUST LIKE IN THE VOICEMAIL I LEFT.

...OH, REALLY? AWESOME.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? DOES TOMORROW WORK? OH, YOU'RE FREE?

YES?

AH, YES. THAT'S RIGHT.

ALL RIGHT.

SURE, WHY NOT? I'LL GLADLY TAKE HIM UP ON THE OFFER.

YEAH. WE'LL HEAD OVER THERE NOW... OKAY, SEE YOU IN 20.

REMEMBER HOW I TOLD YOU THERE ARE THREE LIVED-IN HOMES REMAINING IN TOWA?

HUH...

WELL, ONE OF THEM IS MY FAMILY'S.

SORRY, WE HAVE TO HIKE FROM HERE.

OH, NO WORRIES.

HE LIVES PRETTY DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS, HUH?

I GOTTA TELL YOU, MIZUHO. I'M BAFFLED.

IN MY HEAD, IT'S UP THERE WITH THE MYSTERY OF THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK.

THE WORLD'S FULL OF MYSTERIES,

I CAN SEE WHY HE WOULD BE.

ONE OF THEM BEING THAT KUREKO-SAN IS SOMEHOW POPULAR WITH THE LADIES.

WELL, SURE, *YOU* CAN...

Are we really gonna need the shotgun mic?

FLAT?

KUREKO-SAN IS JUST REALLY "FLAT."

I MEAN, IT'S MY FAULT PEOPLE TAKE ME LIGHTLY, BUT DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S FRUS-TRATING?

THEY GET TAKEN LIGHTLY, HIT ON...

BUT IT FEELS LIKE YOUNG FEMALE EMPLOYEES TEND TO GET TREATED A LOT MORE DELICATELY THAN THEIR MALE CO-WORKERS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE AT OTHER STATIONS,

I SEE...

SHE WAS WORRIED SINCE HE ONLY ACTED DIFFERENTLY TO MADOKA CHISHIRO...

SINCE THAT WAS HER IMPRESSION OF HIM,

BUT KUREKO-SAN ISN'T LIKE THAT.

MORE THAN BEING EQUALLY STRICT ON EVERYONE, IT'S MORE LIKE HE'S HE'S EQUALLY COLD TO EVERYONE.

WELL, HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SOMEONE WHO'S INTERESTED IN PEOPLE.

HANG ON A SEC...

HE'S CLEARLY HARDER ON ME THAN EVERYONE ELSE.

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?

IT AIN'T FAIR, I TELL YOU!

OH, I SEE A BUILDING UP AHEAD...

WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?

THAT'S MY HOUSE.

I THOUGHT IT WAS SOME KINDA FACILITY.

REALLY? IT'S HUGE.

CHIK

LET'S GET SOME GOOD WORK DONE.

ALL RIGHT, MRS.

HEY, DAD.

I'VE CAPTURED THEM.

I'M ON MY WAY BACK NOW.

GAME TRAIL

wave
LISTEN
TO ME!

Chapter 33 「I WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE THEM.」

!!

OKYUHON

?!

FURAKAN

!!

HODOKON

BLUE SKIES~

OHH~

Dah... Aah...

INDEED.

SOME-THING BEFELL OUR MASTER.

YES.

WAS THAT?

AND WATCHING THEM THE WHOLE TIME, THE INNOCENT BABY REALIZED THAT SOMETHING WAS AMISS.

WITH THEIR ANIMAL INSTINCTS, THE THREE TURTLES SENSED THAT MIZUHO AND THE OTHERS WERE IN DANGER.

NEVER-THELESS, NEITHER OF THEM COULD DO ANYTHING TO HELP.

Don't drool on us!

Aah! Hey!

OW...

...?

I FELL ON MY TAILBONE. I THINK I'M GONNA CRAP MY PANTS...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MINARE-SAN?

HEY!

YOU TWO OKAY?!

OOF... AHH...

IT'S PROBABLY ONE OF THE VILLAGE'S ABANDONED FACILITIES.

HUH?! WHAT IS THIS?!

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE AN OLD WELL...

I'LL TRRR IT...

OOP.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

I'D UNDERSTAND IF THIS WERE A COAL MINE, BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE BUILD A TUNNEL LIKE THIS ON DEVELOPED LAND?

HOW SHOULD WE GET OUT OF HERE?

About that... There's no way out where you are right now.

Oh, thank goodness!

YEAH, WE'RE FINE.

HELLO?

Kureko-san! Are you all okay?!

I'm sorry! I forgot to warn you...

It's an old irrigation canal. It hasn't been used for years.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, BUT WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

...AHH. YEAH, I SEE IT.

If you look down the tunnel...

...you should see a light in the distance.

Please walk towards it. You can get out from there.

WELL... IT'D PROBABLY COST A PRETTY PENNY TO FILL THIS WHOLE TUNNEL.

I'M GUESSING LOCALS FALL DOWN HERE SOMETIMES, SINCE THERE WAS PADDING WHERE WE FELL.

IF IT ISN'T USED ANYMORE, THEN FILL THE DAMN THING.

OH, YEAH.

I COMPLETELY FORGOT THANKS TO MY ACHING TAILBONE.

ANYWAY, MINARE-SAN. THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO RECORD SOMETHING!

THIS IS SUDDEN, BUT IS EVERYONE FAMILIAR WITH THE APPENDIX?

YES! SOME-HOW.

IS THE EQUIP-MENT INTACT?

UHH. CONTINUING WITH OUR WASSAMU GHOST STORY SPECIAL, THIS IS *WAVE, LISTEN TO ME!*

CHECK OUT THIS REVERB!

YOU CAN'T GET THAT IN A STUDIO.

BUT IN RECENT YEARS, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE AP-PENDIX WORKS TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF GUT FLORA, SO NOW DOCTORS TRY TO TREAT IT WITH-OUT SURGERY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

AND DOCTORS WOULD CUT IT OUT AT THE FIRST SIGN OF INFLAMMATION.

THE APPENDIX USED TO BE CONSIDERED A VESTIGIAL ORGAN,

APPAR-ENTLY, THE NUMBER OF SEGMENTS A COCCYX HAS VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON.

THAT REMINDS ME, FORERUNNERS OF THE BODY MODIFICATION COMMUNITY HAVE TAKEN TO ATTACHING AN ACTUAL TAIL TO IT...

WHAT KINDA CONVO-LUTED BODY PART IS THAT?!

NOW, AS FOR WHERE I'M GOING WITH THIS,

WHAT PURPOSE DOES IT SERVE, OTHER THAN TO BE EXCRUCIAT-INGLY PAINFUL TO FALL ON?! HONESTLY, THAT SHOULDN'T EVEN COUNT AS A PURPOSE.

I THINK A TRULY USELESS BODY PART IS THE COCCYX!

THE TAIL-BONE!

I DON'T THINK WE'RE GETTIN' OUT WITH THIS LADDER.

ER... IS THIS THE END?

HUH?!

KA-CHAK

HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE?

I'M GLAD EVERYONE'S OKAY.

HOKA-KUSHI-SAN!

ARE YOU GOING TO CALL FOR HELP?

EVENTU-ALLY?!

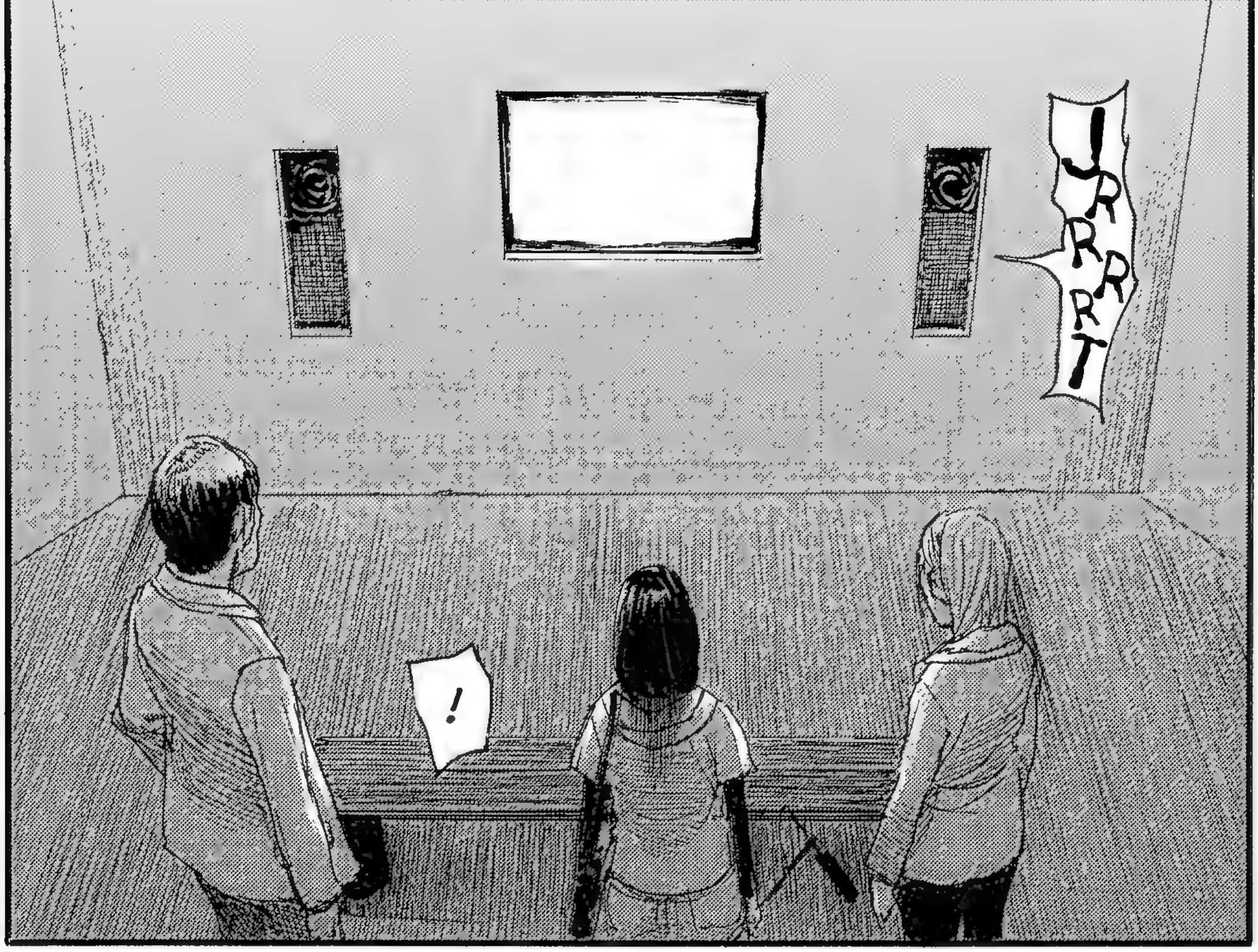
WHAT'S WITH THAT?!

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF THERE EVENTU-ALLY.

BUT BEFORE THAT, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU.

HOLD UP!

SEE YOU LATER.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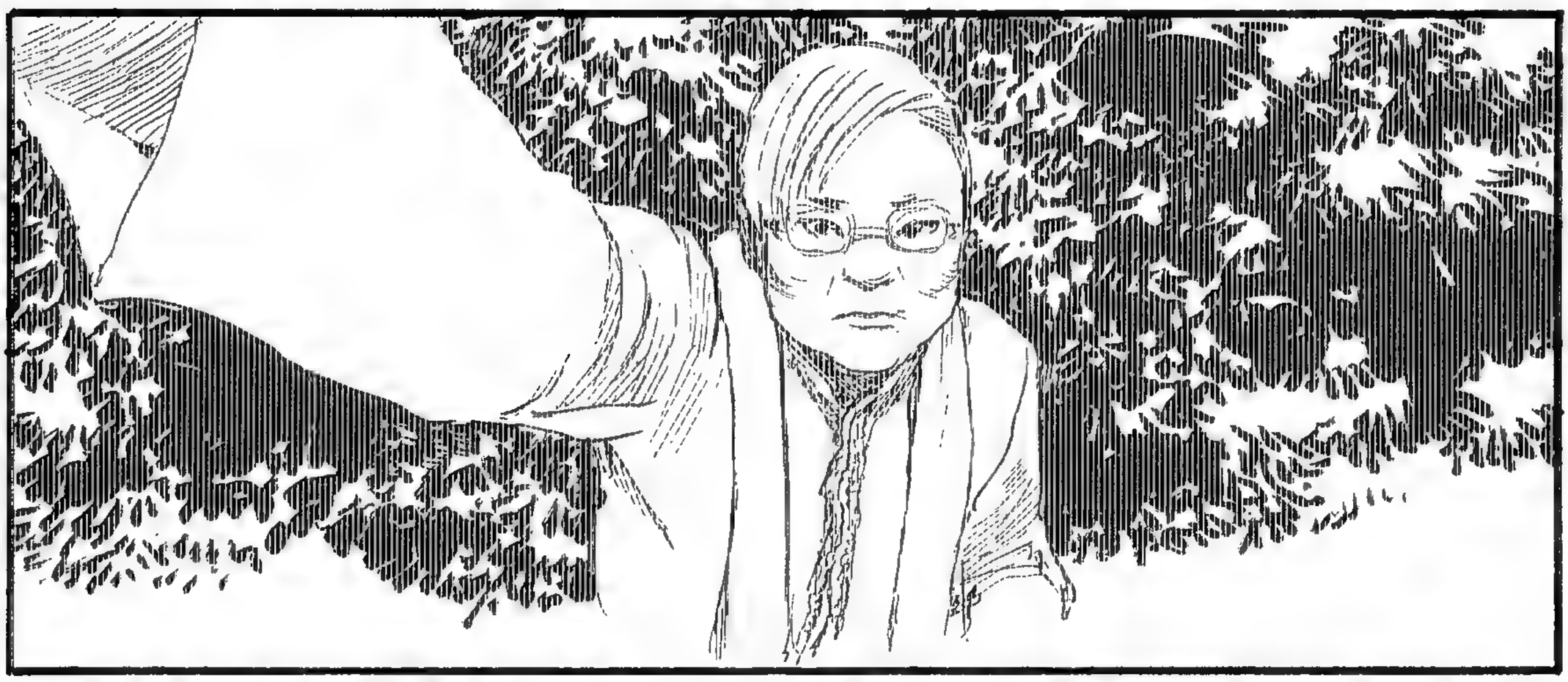


ARE YOU ENJOYING YOUR STAY IN WASSAMU?
YOU ARE? GLAD TO HEAR IT.

UMM.
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET EVERY-ONE.

I REPRESENT THE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION, THE SCHOOL OF WAVE WISDOM.

MY NAME IS TRIKUMIA HANAWA.

PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

...

IS IT COOL IF I SMOKE?

OF COURSE.

IS THIS FOR REAL?

I CAN'T SEE A SINGLE LIGHT OUT-SIDE...

HM? SURE.

KUREKO-SAN.

CAN WE TALK FOR A BIT?

KNOCK KNOCK

WAIT, THERE'S A VENDING MACHINE?

WHY'D YOU ONLY GET GUARANA ...?

THERE'S ONE DOWN THE HALL, BUT IT ONLY SELLS GUARANA.

*GUARANA: A SODA MADE BY KIRIN ONLY SOLD IN HOKKAIDO.

TRIKUMIA HANAWA'S?

PSH

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT GUY'S SPEECH, KUREKO-SAN?

...IS A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION THAT RUNS UNDER THE BANNER OF THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF BROADCAST CULTURE.

THE SCHOOL OF WAVE WISDOM...

UNTIL TELEVISION TOOK THE THRONE IN 1970.

EVER SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE JAPAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION IN 1920, RADIO REIGNED AS THE CENTER FOR ENTERTAINMENT FOR HALF A CENTURY,

COMPANIES ARE ESPECIALLY AT A LOSS AS TO HOW TO CURB THE THINNING INTEREST IN BROADCAST MEDIA AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

AND NOW IN THE 2010'S, TV IS ALSO GRADUALLY LOSING ITS SPOT AS THE SUPREME RULER OF ENTERTAIN-MENT.

WITH THEIR HIGH PRODUCTION COSTS, LONG-TERM DOCUMENTARIES AND DRAMAS HAVE ALL BUT DIED OUT. NOWADAYS, TV HAS BECOME A PLATFORM FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF COMEDIANS AND CELEBRITIES TO MAKE A COMMOTION ON.

THE BURDEN OF DECREASING AD REVENUE FALLS ON THE PRODUCTION COMPANIES.

TELEVISION MEDIA HAS SEEN A DROP OF 6% IN ADVERTISING SHARES OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS, WHILE INTERNET MEDIA HAS SEEN AN INCREASE OF 15%.

THINGS ARE GRIM TO BE SURE.

STALLS IN MULTIMEDIA BROADCASTING VENTURES DUE TO A LACK OF CONSENSUS, PODCASTS THAT DON'T TURN A PROFIT NO MATTER HOW HIGH THE LISTENER BASE...

THE SITUATION IS EVEN MORE DIRE FOR RADIO. RADIO HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SUPERSEDED BY THE INTERNET AS THE PREDOMINANT SOURCE FOR TRANSPARENT MEDIA.

HAS IT ALWAYS BEEN THE PATHETIC INDUSTRY THAT ROLLS ITS EYES AT THE INTERNET'S PROSPERITY WHILE AWKWARDLY TRYING TO SNUGGLE UP TO THE PLATFORM?

WASSAMU SPECIALTY: PUMPKIN

HAS THE BROADCASTING INDUSTRY ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY?

HOWEVER, MY FRIENDS.

...WHILE LEADING THEM TO BELIEVE IT WAS A PRODUCTIVE ENDEAVOR?

THAT WOULD CONVINCE PEOPLE TO DEVOTE ALL THEIR TIME TO THE MEDIA GODS...

WAS IT NOT SIMILAR TO A RELIGION ...

20 MINUTES LATER

STREAMERS?! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

JUST A BUNCH OF AMATEURS ACTING LIKE PERFORMERS!

THEY DON'T HAVE A SHRED OF PROFES-SIONALISM!

ALL THEY DO IS PLAY GAMES, EAT FOOD,

AND SING KARAOKE, FOR GOD'S SAKE!

THEY CALL TV A BORING THING OF THE PAST,

BUT I DARE THEM TO ANALYZE THOSE STREAMERS' VIDEOS.

I SWEAR ...

AND THE CONSUMERS JUST EAT THAT SHIT UP!

WHAT THE HELL'S SO APPEALING ABOUT THAT?!

THE WHOLE THING STARTS AND FINISHES WITHIN THE CONFINES OF A PERSON'S CRAMPED ROOM!

NOT A HINT OF COVERAGE ABILITY!

SHITTY EDITING, TRASH COMMEN-TARY.

HE PROBABLY USED TO WORK IN TV.

AT A MAJOR STATION, I RECKON.

HE'S THE TYPE OF GUY WHO SCREWED UP AND GOT BLACKLISTED BY THE INDUSTRY.

I WAS SHOCKED TO FIND OUT IT WAS RE-CORDED.

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SOMEONE LOSE IT LIKE THAT DURING A COMPANY PROFILE VIDEO?!

I WISH HE'D HAVE CUT OUT ALL THOSE EM-BARRASSING SCENES IF HE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT PROFESSION-ALISM.

AH!

IF IT ISN'T THE VILLAIN'S RIGHT HAND!

GOOD GUESS.

IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AS BIG OF A DEAL IF IT WAS AN INFORMA-TIVE VARIETY SHOW...

PEOPLE BASHED HIM AFTER ONE OF HIS SHOWS AIRED A STAGED SEGMENT THAT CAME OFF AS IMMORAL.

OUR FOUNDER, TRIKUMIA HANWA,

WAS A PRODUCER AT A MAJOR TV STATION IN TOKYO FOUR YEARS AGO.

SO HE TOOK RESPONSI-BILITY BY RESIGNING.

...BUT IT WAS A DOCU-MENTARY DEALING WITH DISCRIM-INATION ISSUES,

YES, BUT I HAPPENED TO SHOW HIM AROUND TOWN THE LAST TIME HE CAME TO SAPPORO ON A BUSINESS TRIP, AND, WELL...

CAN I GET THE DETAILS LATER?

A LOT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT.

WHY SOMEONE FROM A REGIONAL AFFILIATE STATION?

COULDN'T HE HAVE ASKED SOMEONE FROM THE MAIN OFFICE?

I WAS WORKING IN THE COMPILATION ROOM AT AN AFFILIATE STATION IN SAPPORO AT THE TIME.

HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO START A NEW COMPANY AND ASKED FOR MY HELP.

OH...

IT'S JUST THAT I WAS ASKED TO GET SOMEONE WHO EITHER WORKED IN TV OR A RADIO WORKER FROM A STATION THAT ALSO DEALS IN TV.

ARE YOU TIRED, HOKAKUSHI-SAN? YOU SEEM EXHAUSTED.

P-

DID THEY MAKE YOU EAT A NAIL CLIPPING OR SOME-THING?!

WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?!

PUN-ISHED?!

...I WAS PUNISHED A LITTLE.

SINCE MRS IS RADIO ONLY...

AND?

WHAT DOES YOUR GROUP WANT WITH A PUNY REGIONAL RADIO STATION LIKE US?

YO, THIS RELIGION SMELLS WAY TOO LEWD.

NO... MY BODY TINGLES JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.

WELL, THE PUNISHMENT IS ALSO BASICALLY A REWARD.

YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT YOUR PAST AND THE CRAZY REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAS HIS FOLLOWERS CALLING HIM "DAD" LATER.

WHY DON'T YOU START BY EXPLAINING WHY YOU'RE KEEPING US LOCKED UP HERE?

THE FIRST...

...IS THAT WE'D LIKE YOU TO CREATE A NUMBER OF RADIO PROGRAMS FOLLOWING OUR INSTRUCTIONS.

MY APOL-OGIES. YOU'RE RIGHT.

WE HAVE TWO DEMANDS, NEITHER OF WHICH I'D SAY ARE VERY DIFFICULT.

...IS THAT WE'D LIKE MOIWAYAMA RADIO TO AIR THEM.

AND THE SECOND...

Chapter 36 「SHAMED BE THE MAN WHOM SPURNS A WOMAN'S ADVANCES.」

PLEASE,

DIG IN, EVERYONE.

cream stew pot pie

pumpkin & minced meat croquettes with Roasted pumpkin

pumpkin soup

pumpkin Bread

chinese-styled pumpkin meat Rolls

cream stew pot pie

pumpkin soup

pumpkin & minced meat croquettes with Roasted pumpkin

pumpkin

NO... I'M FINE, BUT...

IS SOME-THING THE MATTER, KODA-SAN?

...IS THERE A COMMANDMENT IN YOUR GUYS' DOCTRINE THAT HAS TO DO WITH PUMPKIN OR SOMETHING?

AND JUST SO YOU KNOW, KODA-SAN,

THEY'RE BASI-CALLY IN THE SAME FAMILY!

THE POT PIE IS FILLED WITH SWEET POTATO, NOT PUMPKIN.

SO, IN AN EFFORT TO FORGE AN AMICABLE RELATION-SHIP, WE GO OUT OF OUR WAY TO PUR-CHASE THE REGIONAL PRODUCE.

WASSAMU HAS THE MOST PUMPKIN PLANTA-TIONS IN ALL OF JAPAN.

WORD HAS IT THAT ALTERNATIVE RELIGIOUS GROUPS TEND TO BUMP HEADS WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS.

I OCCASIONALLY *INVITE* MEMBERS OF THE BROADCASTING INDUSTRY OVER FOR DINNER, BUT NEVER HAS MY TABLE BEEN GRACED WITH SO MANY BEAUTIES BEFORE.

MY, WHAT AN INVIGO-RATING DAY.

THE VIDEO YOU SAW WAS RECORDED QUITE SOME TIME AGO, YOU SEE.

OH, HOW EMBARRASSING.

I WOULD LIKEN KODA-SAN TO A JAPANESE YAM,

FOR A RELIGIONIST, HE'S PRETTY BAD AT METAPHORS...

WHILE NANBA-SAN IS MORE LIKE A PETITE TARO.

YEAH, YOU LOOK SO THIN I'D SWEAR YOU WERE A NEUTRON STAR.

NOT AT ALL. YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOU DID ON CAMERA.

I'D LIKE TO HAVE LOST A LITTLE WEIGHT BEFORE MEETING YOU ALL.

I'VE GAINED SOME 60 POUNDS SINCE THEN.

WHAT ARE YOU, AN INSECURE WOMAN?

HOW OLD DO I LOOK?

TAKE A GUESS.

MAY I ASK HOW OLD YOU ARE, TRIKUMIA-SAN...?

ACCORD-
ING TO
HOKA-
KUSHI-
SAN,

YOU'D LIKE
US TO MAKE A
SHOW DIRECTED
BY YOU TO BE
BROADCAST
ON MRS,
CORRECT?

HANAWA-
SAN.

UNFORTU-
NATELY, WE
DON'T HAVE
THAT KIND OF
AUTHORITY.

I DON'T
SUPPOSE
WE CAN
TURN DOWN
THIS JOB,
CAN WE?

I TAKE IT
YOU DON'T
WANT TO
LEAVE HERE,
THEN?

...AND FED ON THE UNDERBELLY OF THE INDUSTRY, IS IT?

I'M GUESSING THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE TAKEN BROADCASTING PROFESSIONALS HOSTAGE...

THAT TUNNEL AND HOLE CLEARLY WEREN'T CONSTRUCTED RECENTLY.

THINK-ING BACK ON IT,

...THE WORLD'S FIRST TERRESTRIAL BROADCASTING STATION WITH-OUT ITS OWN FREQUENCY.

PRECISELY. WE ARE...

IS THIS DUDE OKAY IN THE HEAD?

AND THOSE PEOPLE HAVE A MONOPOLY ON WHAT LITTLE AIRWAVES ARE AVAILABLE.

WHAT'S THE HARM IN CUTTING OUT A LITTLE SPACE FOR OURSELVES?

WE REFUSE TO FOLLOW THE BROAD-CASTING STATIONS' EVERY WHIM.

I BELIEVE WE ARE FAR MORE CAPABLE THAN ANY DIRECTOR, YOU SEE.

THEN MAKE YOUR OWN DAMN SHOWS!

WHY ARE YOU GOING THROUGH ALL THIS TROU-BLE?

CAN'T YOU JUST START YOUR OWN PRODUCTION COMPANY?

...ARE NOTHING BUT PUZZLERS WHO PUT TOGETHER THE PIECES OF MATERIAL THE PRODUCTION COMPANIES HAND TO THEM.

MEMBERS OF KEY STATIONS...

CORRECT.

YOU'LL ALSO BE COMPENSATED, OF COURSE.

YOU WANT TO MAKE A SHOW WITH THE EQUIPMENT HERE,

AND ONCE IT'S BROADCAST, YOU'LL LET US LEAVE?

SEND THE DATA TO MOIWAYAMA RADIO,

PUTTING YOUR POINT OF VIEW ASIDE, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.

pumpkin pudding

HASN'T ANYONE REPORTED YOU TO THE POLICE YET? YOU'D THINK THAT WOULD BE THE FIRST THING THEY'D DO AFTER YOU RELEASE THEM.

BUT THIS IS A CRIME, Y'KNOW.

I'M SURE YOU'RE ALREADY AWARE,

THAT HAS YET TO HAPPEN EVEN ONCE.

BUT STRANGELY ENOUGH,

AH, HA, HA. YOU'RE RIGHT.

POLICE INTERVENTION IS SOMETHING I FEAR DAY IN AND DAY OUT.

?

AHH... I GETCHA.

OH, IT'S JUST SOMETHING THAT'S ALL TOO COM-MON.

WHAT DID YOU MEAN BEFORE? DID YOU REALIZE SOMETHING?

KUREKO-SAN,

LET'S ASSUME THEY KIDNAP SOMEONE WHO'S MARRIED, RIGHT?

WHILE THE HOSTAGE LIVES HERE...

HUH?

IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS A HONEY TRAP.

I HAVEN'T HEARD SOMEONE USE "GET INTIMATE" IN LIKE FIVE YEARS.

ONCE THE HOSTAGE GETS INTIMATE WITH THE BAIT, THEY USE IT TO BLACKMAIL THEM INTO KEEPING EVERYTHING HUSH-HUSH.

THEN,

...THEY PIN A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX TO THEM UNDER THE GUISE OF TAKING CARE OF THEM OR HELPING WITH THE PRODUCTION PROCESS, WHATEVER EXCUSE THEY NEED.

HAS SOMETHING LIKE THAT ALREADY HAPPENED TO YOU, KUREKO-SAN?

IF YOU'VE CAUGHT ON TO THEM, THEN...

UM...

delight

distress

...HOKAKUSHI-SAN CAME TO MY ROOM THE FIRST NIGHT WE WERE HERE.

YOU KEPT QUIET ABOUT THAT UNTIL NOW? YOU OLD DOG, YOU.

WHAT?!

WHA?! YOU MEAN...?!

WHEN SHE LAID DOWN, SHE, UH, WRAPPED HER ARMS AROUND MY NECK.

THEN WHAT HAP-PENED?!

PICKLED? WHAT DECADE IS THIS?

SHE GOT A LITTLE PICKLED, SO I LET HER USE THE BED.

WE HAD A FEW DRINKS AND GOT TO TALKING.

OLD RADIO, LITER-ATURE, SMALL TALK.

SORRY,

I WAS TRAUMATIZED WHEN I WAS LITTLE AND I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF BIG BREASTS EVER SINCE.

WELL, IT'S WORK TO HER, AFTER ALL. IN MULTIPLE WAYS.

THAT'S AMAZING. SHE ACTED LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED THE NEXT DAY.

WELL, I MADE THAT PART UP.

I GUESS SHE GOT THE RESULT SHE WAS LOOKING FOR, BECAUSE SHE SUDDENLY GOT UP AND WALKED STRAIGHT OUT OF THE ROOM.

CACKLE

...MAYBE YOU HAVE SHOT, AFTER ALL, MIZUHO!

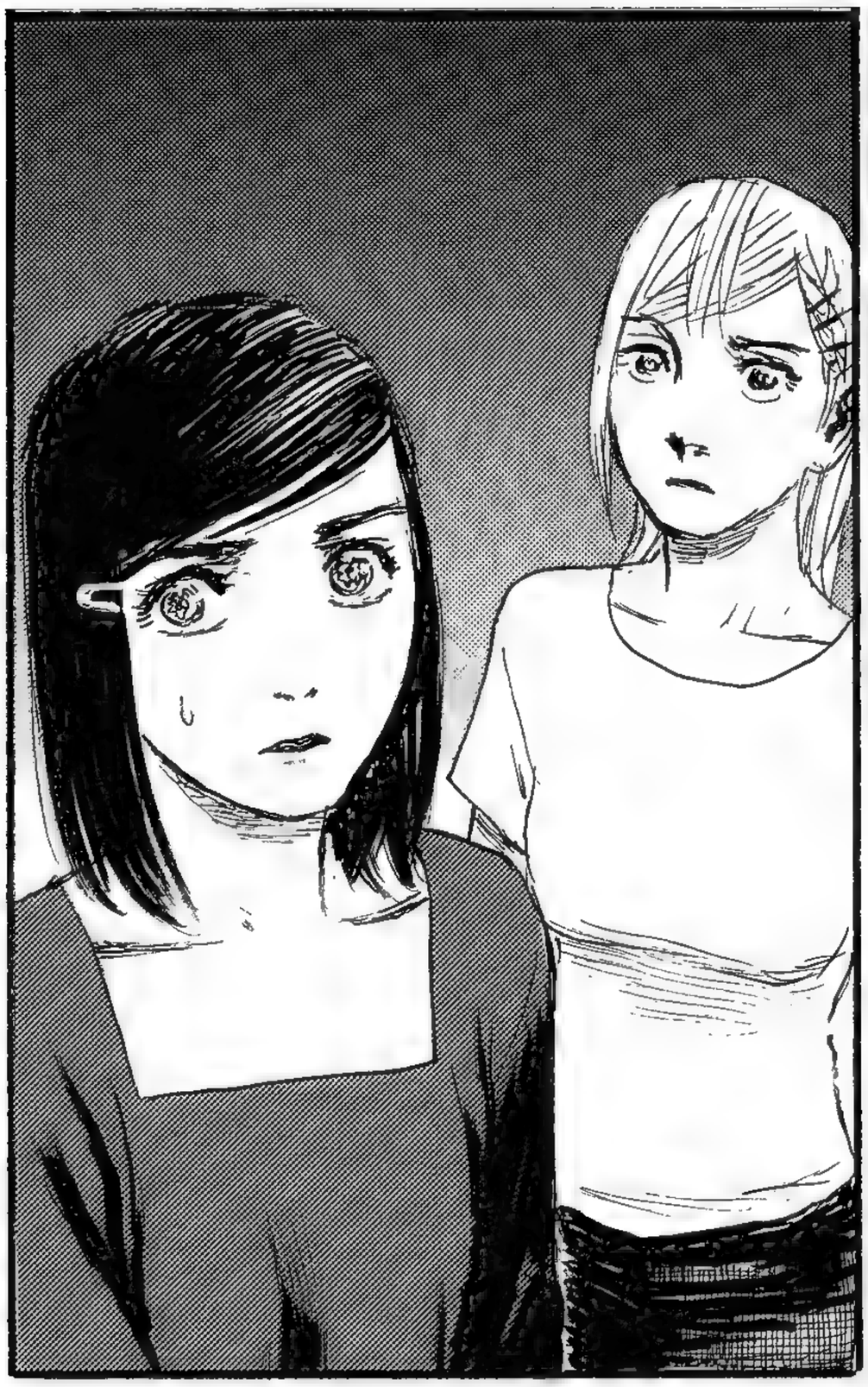
MAN... THAT'S PRETTY CONVINCING COMING FROM YOU, THOUGH, KUREKO-SAN.

LOOKING AT MADOKA CHISHIRO'S TITS...

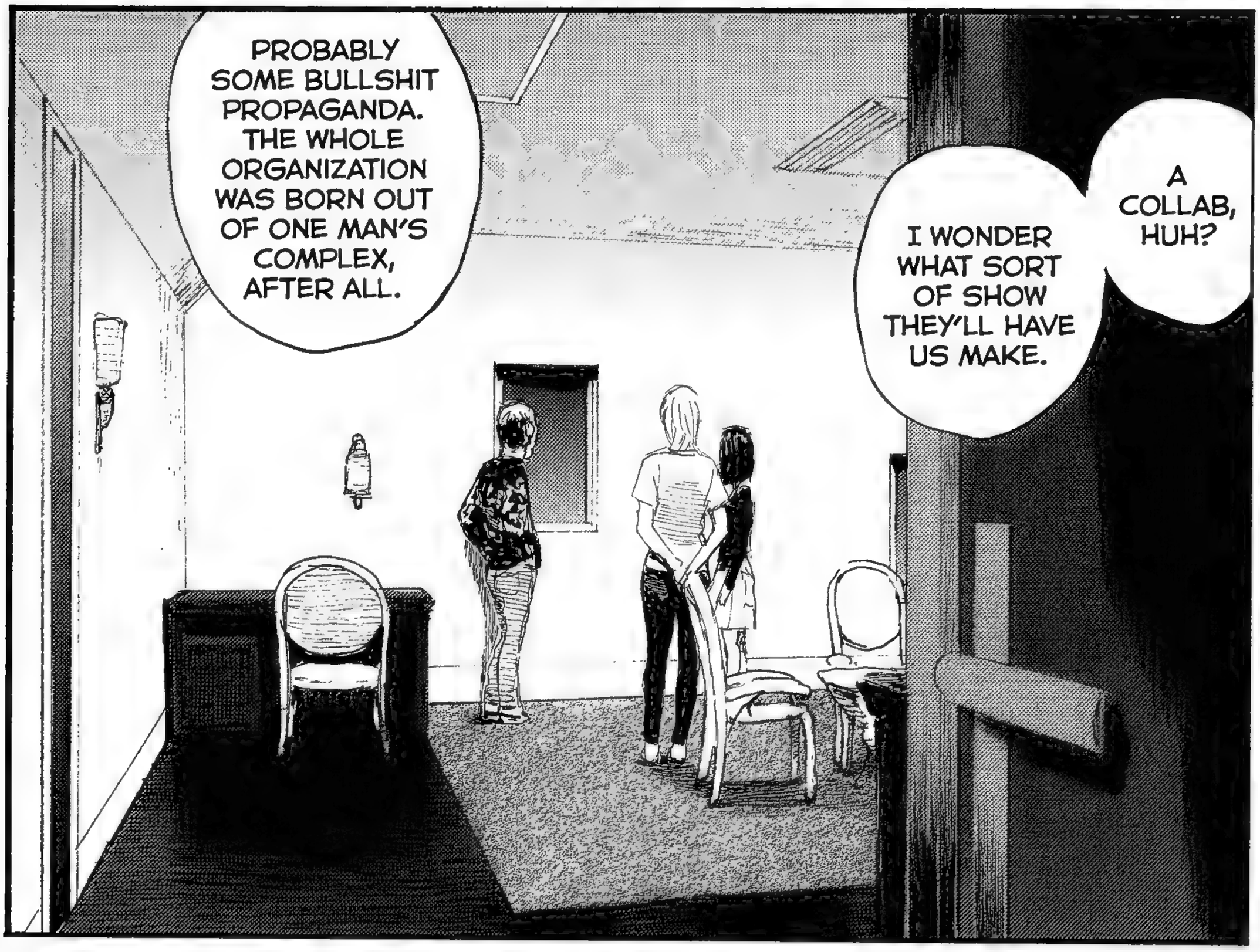
I DUNNO WHY THEY'RE EVEN TRYING.

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT WE'RE ALL SINGLE.

NONE OF US ARE MARRIED.



ON THE OTHER HAND, I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN THEY'LL LET US GO.
THEY TOOK OUR PHONES, SO WE CAN'T CALL FOR HELP, EITHER.


PROBABLY SOME BULLSHIT PROPAGANDA. THE WHOLE ORGANIZATION WAS BORN OUT OF ONE MAN'S COMPLEX, AFTER ALL.
I WONDER WHAT SORT OF SHOW THEY'LL HAVE US MAKE.
A COLLAB, HUH?

THEY CAN KISS MY ASS IF THEY THINK I'LL HELP THEM WITH THAT.

HCB

WELL, THEN. WELCOME TO THE *BADGER HUNTING HOUR.*

DUM DUM PAP PAP

LET'S HAVE A ROUND OF AP-PLAUSE!

WITH US THIS EVENING IS THE ONE AND ONLY JOKER SKONSKY!

WE HAVE A SPECIAL TREAT FOR YOU ALL!

UM... THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME.

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

UM... 24.

BUT SHE'S SUPER BEAUTIFUL! FOR REAL!

OH, NO... YOU FLATTER ME.

WHAT SORT OF PERSON DO YOU IMAGINE JOKER TO BE? HER VOICE SHOULD GIVE AWAY THAT SHE'S A YOUNG WOMAN,

I'M TELLIN' YA, PEOPLE...

I KNOW THIS IS RADIO AND Y'ALL DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF SEEING HER, BUT I'M BEING COMPLETE-LY HONEST HERE.

THIS GUY GETS EXCITED WHEN SOMEONE'S LOOKS AND PERSONALITY DON'T MATCH UP.

Y-YES. SORRY.

MAGGOT THERAPY

WITH YOUR LOOKS?!

YOU'RE KIDDING ME! *YOU* WROTE ABOUT THOSE THEMES LIKE, "INTERIOR DECORATING BY AN ABASHIRI PRISON CONVICT," AND "I LEFT MY VAGINA SOMEWHERE?!"

OH... BECAUSE I LOVE SCONES.

AND HOW'D YOU COME UP WITH SKONSKY?

YES, MY REAL NAME IS MIXED IN.

AH, I SEE WHERE YOU GOT JOKER FROM.

LET'S SEE. YOU WORK AT A RESTAURANT IN SAPPORO?

WHAT SORT OF RADIO DO YOU USUALLY LISTEN TO, JOKER?

YOU REALLY WANNA DIVE INTO THAT?

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT SCONES?

UM... DUE TO VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, I HAD TO DROP OUT OF COLLEGE AND HAVE MORE OR LESS BEEN A SHUT-IN.

THE OUJ?!

BUT I LISTEN TO THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN* THE MOST.

GOOD QUESTION. I SUPPOSE IT'S BEEN MORE OUT OF NECESSITY,

*OPEN UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN: A DISTANCE LEARNING UNIVERSITY THAT BROADCASTS LECTURES OVER RADIO AND TELEVISION.

AH, HA, HA...

THAT'S FANTASTIC.

I WAS WONDERING WHY SUCH A LOVELY LADY WAS WRITING INTO OUR SHOW.

THAT WAS THE CASE WITH PENCIL ALLEY, TOO. NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WE ONLY EVER GET SHUT-INS ON THIS SHOW.

I THOUGHT I SMELLED A KINDRED SPIRIT.

Okay, Joker. Just sit back and take a listen. We'll ask you your thoughts afterwards.

Now, then. Let's move on to her script, shall we?

A-all right! I'm getting nervous...

This makes the fourth scenario Joker has written for the show.

Well, I guess we could use the keyboard to call for help.

IT WAS NICE OF THEM TO LEND US TABLETS IN EXCHANGE FOR TAKING OUR PHONES.

FIGURES THEY WOULDN'T ASK US TO MAKE A RADIO SHOW WITH-OUT GIVING US ANY ACCESS TO THE RADIO.

THOUGH YOU CAN'T USE THE KEYBOARD AT ALL.

HUH! JOKER SKONSKY WAS A WOMAN?

HMM... I FEEL LIKE I'VE HEARD HER VOICE SOMEWHERE BEFORE.

YOU GO, GIRL!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT MY BURNER PHONE, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I COULD USE?

I'M NAKED UNDER THIS GOWN, Y'KNOW!

I LEFT ALL MY SHIT AT THE HOTEL. THEY COULD AT LEAST GO GRAB MY CLOTHES.

CLOTHES!

THAT SAID,

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE BEING HELD CAPTIVE WITH NO SIGN OF RELEASE...

...

*ASSUMES THE ROOM IS TAPPED.

COMPARED TO THAT SWEAT-SHOP-LEVEL SCHEDULE...

ON SHOW NIGHTS, I WOULDN'T GET HOME UNTIL FOUR IN THE MORNING.

MAKES SENSE. I'D GET UP AT EIGHT TO GO TO WORK AT VOYAGER UNTIL MIDNIGHT.

...I SURE AM KICKING IT BACK PRETTY EASILY.

BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I GOT UP PRETTY EARLY TODAY.

I WANNA MAKE THE MOST OF THIS,

I'D BE DOWN FOR STAYING UNTIL DECEMBER IF THEY'D SUPPLY ME WITH BEER AND POTATO CHIPS.

...IS PRETTY FUCKIN' GREAT!

...BEING ABLE TO RELAX *BECAUSE I'M* HELPLESS...

I'LL JUST GO TO BED. WE'RE PROBABLY GONNA BE HERE A WHILE, ANYWAY.

GASP

...NO, MIZUHO...

THIS ISN'T A LUMINOL REACTION...

UGH... I SHOULD GO TO THE BATHROOM AND SLEEP.

I WAS ONLY ASLEEP FOR A FEW MINUTES AND ALREADY SAW A NIGHTMARE.

...SOMEONE'S HERE.

AND IT ISN'T MIZUHO...

...

ROOM CLICK

ROOM

CLICK

FLASH

AAA

HONEY TRAP...

LISTEN
TO ME!

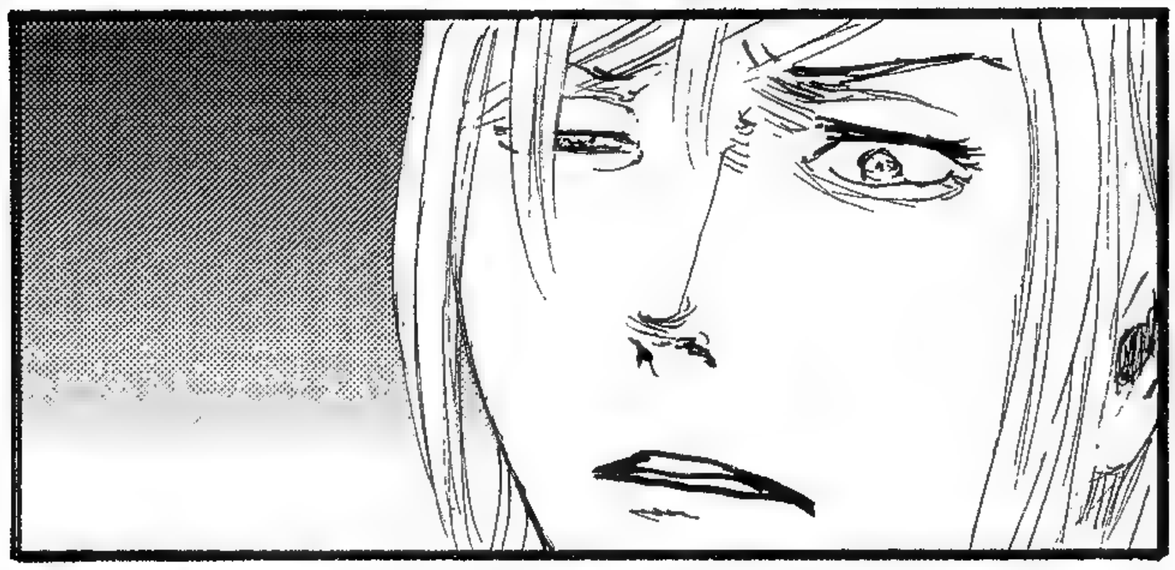
Chapter 57 「THAT'S NOT YOUR DUTY.」

WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

WHY'D YOU SNEAK IN HERE?

I'M SORRY... I WAS TRYING TO BE QUIET SINCE YOU SEEMED TO BE ASLEEP.

UM...



I BROUGHT YOUR BAGS.

LOOKING FOR LISTENING DEVICES.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT OTHER EXPLANATION COULD THERE BE? THE TIMING IS TOO PERFECT!

THE GROUP TOOK CARE OF YOUR HOTEL FEES, SO THEY WANT YOU TO REST ASSURED.

NO OFFENSE, BUT...

HUH?!

I-I'M A BOY.

...ARE YOU A BOY OR A GIRL?

BUT THEY'RE IMPLANTED IN THE WALLS AND CEILING, SO YOU CAN'T SEE THEM.

YES, THE ROOM IS WIRED.

SORRY. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT STILL BE UP SINCE IT'S ONLY 11.

ALSO...

I'M ALL ALONE IN THIS ROOM, AFTER ALL.

SORRY TO SAY THIS AFTER YOU WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF BRINGING ME MY BAGS, BUT I WISH THEY'D HAVE SENT A WOMAN.

SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD INTRODUCE MYSELF.

...I'LL BE TENDING TO YOUR NEEDS FROM NOW ON,

THE MADMEN ACTUALLY DID IT...

I RECKON IT'D BE THE KIND THAT SETS YOU UP FOR A STATUTORY RAPE CHARGE.

WELL, SINCE YOU TWO ARE OBVIOUSLY STILL SINGLE, IF THEY TRIED TO HOOK YOU WITH A HONEY TRAP...

SAY, HOW OLD ARE YOU?

I'M SIXTEEN.

SERIOUSLY? YOU'RE OLDER THAN YOU LOOK...

WOULDN'T THEY USUALLY SEND SOME-ONE WHO LOOKS OLD FOR THEIR AGE?

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

HI- HIROMI SAIKI.

ALL RIGHT, HIROMI.

STAY PUT THERE FOR A SEC.

OKAY.

SIGH!

...LISTEN, HIROMI-KUN.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME.

CARRY GUESTS' BAGS?

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE THEY MADE YOU DO SOME-THING LIKE THIS?

ABOUT A YEAR. MY MOM AND I JOINED NEAR THE END OF LAST YEAR.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?

...IS PROBABLY VERY INDECENT.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

I DUNNO WHAT THEY'VE TOLD YOU,

BUT WHAT THE GROUP WANTS YOU TO DO...

THAT SAID,

IF I WERE TO...

NORMALLY, THE ONLY THING BOYS YOUR AGE CAN THINK ABOUT IS SEX.

...I'M HONESTLY SHOCKED.

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

MOST IMPOR-TANTLY, SOMEONE WHO'S FAITHFUL!

NOT ALL WOMEN ARE INTO CUTE BOYS, Y'KNOW! DON'T SCREW WITH ME!

AND CAN HOLD A JOB!

WANNA KNOW WHAT MY IDEAL MAN IS?! FIRST, HE HAS TO BE BUILT LIKE A TANK!

AND HAVE A BIG APPRETITE!

IF YOU WANT A SLENDER MAN WITH FEMININE FEATURES, THEN JUST DATE A WOMAN FOR GOD'S SAKE!

I DON'T CARE IF HE'S A LITTLE SLOPPY! SOMEONE WHO'S BROAD-MINDED AND DOESN'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF!

IF THAT HAPPENED...

...THEN I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD MYSELF BACK.

I HAVEN'T HAD SEX IN A WHILE, EITHER...

...?

EVENIN'!

I'M HERE BECAUSE YOU ASKED FOR A SWITCH.

...SHOUT THAT NOW, THEN MAYBE...

Mizuho's Room

Minare's Room

Kureko's Room

Guest Room A

Guest Room B

Guest Room C

D

E

Guest Room F

Guest Room G

BUILDING MAP (TOP-DOWN)

GR

AH...

BAM

MIZU-HO!

HAHA

what the hell was that?!

Hey! He's foaming at the mouth!

HE LET OUT A YELL LIKE, "GRABA-WAAAH," AND FELL OUT OF THE WIN-DOW.

HE MIGHT BE DEAD...

SHE EVEN NAILED THE SCREAM...

IT LOOKS LIKE PEOPLE ARE GATHERING DOWN BELOW, SO HE MIGHT MAKE IT.

Y-YES!

BUT... I DON'T KNOW IF HE WAS YOUNG OR BEAUTIFUL.

I GOT STARTLED AND SHOT HIM WITH BEAR SPRAY.

DID A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG MAN COME INTO YOUR ROOM?!

LOOK, HIROMI.

THIS IS WHAT STRONG BONDS LOOK LIKE.

YES, UM... I SEE.

WHY DON'T YOU SLEEP IN MY ROOM UNTIL THEY FIX THE WINDOW?

POOR THING. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

HNN... I WAS SO SCARED.

THANKS...

Good afternoon, everyone. You're listening to MRS Moiwayama Radio at noon.

It's time for Madoka Chishiro's *September Blue Moon.*

Get this. I got an unexpected package from home yesterday. And when I opened it up...

I was furious. When I called home and asked what the deal was, my parents told me it was my grandmother's homemade granola...

...it was filled with wood chips. That's it. Just wood chips.

SAY, HOKA-KUSHI-SAN.

I DON'T ...

...HAVE A WIFE OR KIDS, Y'KNOW.

CARE FOR MORE COFFEE?

OH... SURE, I'LL HAVE ANOTHER CUP.

NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU KEEP US HERE, I WON'T WRITE ANY PROPAGAN-DA FOR YOU FOLKS.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

SHOULD I TAKE THAT AS THERE'S NOTHING IN THE WAY IF I GET SERIOUS ABOUT YOU?

SO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY AND BLACKMAIL ME.

I PROMISE NOT TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE.

SAVE US BOTH THE TIME AND LET US GO ALREADY.

WHO SAID ANY-THING...

...ABOUT WANTING YOU TO MAKE RELIGIOUS PROPAGANDA?

THESE ARE SHOW PLANS AND SEGMENT EXCERPTS...

- Christmas Coffret
- Previous Life Karma (And more)
- Cleaning Magic

Radio Seaside

Trikumia Hanawa

9-18-2015

...THAT TRIKUMIA AND I HAVE WRITTEN OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

FEEL FREE TO BUILD OFF OF THEM.

HERE.

...WERE BOTH SPONSORED BY RELIGIOUS GROUPS, BUT THE CONTENTS OF THE SHOWS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE GROUPS THEMSELVES, RIGHT?

SVT'S 100-YEAR HOKKAIDO AND AIR-J'S HOKKAIDO TREASURE LAND...

...NOT BAD.

ACTUALLY, THIS IS GOOD STUFF.

MOST PEOPLE WOULD THINK WE'RE SOME KIND OF SURFING SCHOOL AND THAT'D BE THE END OF IT. WE'RE A FRINGE GROUP WITH LESS THAN 100 MEMBERS, AFTER ALL.

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY PRIDE IN YOUR OWN GROUP?

OF COURSE, SINCE WE'RE BUYING A SLOT, WE'D LOVE TO HAVE A COMMERCIAL PLAYED,

BUT NO ONE WOULD EVER FIGURE WE'RE A RELIGIOUS GROUP. EVEN IF WE SAID, "BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SCHOOL OF WAVE WISDOM,"

I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT...

YOU COULD SAY HIS MIND'S RULED BY RADIO WAVES.

BUT IN REALITY, HE'S JUST A HARDCORE TV MAN WHO WANTS TO BROADCAST SHOWS HE THINKS ARE GOOD OVER THE AIR, NOT THE NET.

HANAWA-SAN... TRIKUMIA ACTS LIKE SOME BIGSHOT RELIGIONIST,

REGARDING THE HOST OF THE SHOW, WE'D LIKE YOU TO USE A WOMAN WE'VE CHOSEN.

ADDITIONALLY, THE GROUP HAS ONE MORE PROPOSAL,

RATHER, A FAVOR THEY'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.

I ASSURE YOU, WE WON'T GIVE YOU A TOTAL AMATEUR TO WORK WITH.

THE GROUP IS GIVING HER SPECIAL TRAINING IN PREPARATION FOR THE BROADCAST.

HUH?!

GIMME A BREAK. THE SHOW'S TITLED *MINARE KODA'S WAVE, LISTEN TO ME, Y'KNOW...*

OUR PRIESTESS.

SHE'S A SONG-STRESS, SO TO SPEAK.

YOU REALLY LOVE THAT KINDA STUFF, HUH?

I'M TELLING YOU, KUREKO-SAN, A CURVE BALL HERE AND THERE MAKES A SHOW TEN TIMES MORE INTERESTING.

MRS

T
R
R
R
IL
IL
IL..

HAVE YOU TALKED TO KUREKO AT ALL, CHISHIRO-CHAN?

YEAH.

...NO ONE'S PICKING UP.

WHO? YOU MEAN THOSE THREE?

I TRIED CALLING KODA-SAN, BUT SHE WOULDN'T ANSWER.

WELL, I GUESS SHE WOULD BE THE FIRST ONE TO SPILL THE BEANS.

YOU CALLED *HER?* YER REALLY SOMETHIN'.

HE'S ON A GETAWAY WITH TWO YOUNG WOMEN, AFTER ALL.

MAYBE SOME-THING SPICY IS HAPPEN-ING.

...HELLO?

HM?

I DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS NUMBER.

MY NAME IS NAKAHARA. I WORK AT VOYAGER... YES! IT'S GOOD TO SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN, TOO.

UM, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CALL MINARE-SAN SINCE YESTERDAY, BUT SHE WON'T PICK UP.

IS THIS MATO-SAN?

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU. MINARE-SAN GAVE ME YOUR NUMBER BEFORE.

I WAS WONDERING IF SHE'S CALLED MRS AT ALL.
...YES, I'VE TRIED LEAVING HER A MESSAGE.
BUT SHE NEVER RETURNS MY CALLS NO MATTER HOW MANY I LEAVE, ANYWAY...
POOR GUY...
IF YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH HER, CAN YOU PLEASE ASK HER TO CALL THE STORE?
THE THING IS, WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER, EITHER.
THE AD WHO'S WITH HER SPOKE TO A TOURISM DIRECTOR IN THE AREA, SO WE'LL TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THEM FIRST IF WE STILL DON'T HEAR ANY WORD FROM MINARE TODAY.
YEAH, OF COURSE. I'LL BE SURE TO LET YOU KNOW. OKAY. BYE.
HM? ONE AFTER ANOTHER...
BVVVV
!
MINARE!
IT'S ABOUT TIME... IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT OVER THERE?!

...THERE WAS A FUCKING BROWN BEAR PACING AROUND IT!

YESTERDAY, WE TOOK THE CAMERAS INTO THE MOUNTAINS FOR A LITTLE EXPLORATION, AND WHEN WE GOT BACK TO THE CAR...

GET THIS!

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? ...OH, YEAH. ABOUT THAT...

I WAS SWEATING THERE FOR A SEC... SORRY TO WORRY YOU.

WE *JUST* GOT OUR SHIT BACK.

YEAH! OUR PHONES AND EVERY-THING ELSE WERE IN THE CAR.

NO, SERIOUSLY! ...YEAH. IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE IT WAS GOING AWAY ANYTIME SOON...

...SO WE HAD TO WALK ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE HOTEL.

*PHONE CALLS MAY ONLY BE MADE WITH A MEMBER PRESENT.

SURE! JUST NAME IT!

SAIKI, CAN I ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR?

JUST LOOK AT HOW PEACE-FULLY MIZUHO'S SLEEPING.

ON TOP OF SLAVING AWAY AS AN AD,

SHE WORKS DAY IN AND DAY OUT TAKING CARE OF HER TURTLES AND ME...

I WAS HOPING SHE'D AT LEAST CATCH UP ON SOME SLEEP ON THIS TRIP, Y'KNOW?

IF KUREKO-SAN GETS A CHANCE TO CALL THE STATION, I WANT YOU TO PUT A GUN TO HIS HEAD...

...AND THREATEN TO KILL HIM IF HE BLABS ABOUT ANYTHING UN-NECESSARY. CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU EVEN ON, MINARE-SAN?

AT FIRST, I WAS WORRIED ABOUT BEING LOCKED UP HERE, BUT NOW I THINK THAT MAYBE THE TIME I SPEND HERE IS A GIFT FROM THE GODS.

I SLEPT LIKE A LOG AFTER I REALIZED KICKING AND SCREAMING WASN'T GONNA GET ME ANYWHERE.

FUNNY THING IS, THE SAME WENT FOR ME YESTER-DAY.

I DON'T WANT TO! FORGET THAT AND JUST MAKE A RADIO SHOW!

SO, I'VE DECIDED TO KICK BACK AND LET LAZINESS TAKE ME.

WITNESS THE GREATEST CASE OF HEDONISM SINCE THE WAR ENDED!

GET A GOOD LOOK AT THIS BAD EXAMPLE OF AN ADULT WHILE YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, SAIKI.

GUESS I'LL LOOK FOR SOME-THING ELSE.

BUT I GOTTA SAY, YUJI IIYAMA'S* RETIREMENT CEREMONY GETS OLD AFTER MAR-ATHONING IT 50 TIMES.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? I CAN'T SEARCH FOR ANYTHING. I FINALLY LANDED ON THIS ONE AFTER DIGGING THROUGH RELATED VIDEOS.

AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN GREATEST CASE OF HEDONISM SINCE THE WAR ENDED? ALL YOU'RE DOING IS EATING DRIED SQUID AND WATCHING VIDEOS.

*YUJI IIYAMA: A FORMER BASEBALL PLAYER FOR THE NIPPON HAM FIGHTERS.

YOU'RE WATCHING VIDEOS AGAIN?!

YOU'LL NEVER GET OUT OF HERE UNLESS YOU START WRITING!

AND AGAIN WITH *ATSUSHI WATANABE'S HOUSE HUNT?!*

WHAT IS THIS, A 30-SQUARE METER, FIVE-STORY HOUSE?!

GIMME A BREAK. I FINALLY LANDED ON THIS AFTER DIGGING THROUGH RELATED VIDEOS.

ISN'T THAT OUTFIT A LITTLE SKIMPY FOR OCTO-BER?

NOT EVEN TRYING TO HIDE IT ANYMORE, HUH?

WELL, WHAT CAN I DO? IT'S DESIGNED FOR A HONEY TRAP.

WHY AM I BEING FORCED TO WRITE LIKE ALWAYS?

DAMN IT... I WANTED TO FOCUS ON SOAKING THINGS IN ON THIS TRIP.

ISN'T THIS THE PERFECT WORKING ENVIRONMENT? SURROUNDED BY NATURE, AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE CIT–

ACHOO

By hand, too.

OH, HER...

I DON'T RECALL AGREEING TO MEET HER.

OUR PRIESTESS I MENTIONED YESTERDAY.

WELL, NOT LIKE I HAVE ANY CHOICE IN THE MATTER.

OH, BY THE WAY.

I BROUGHT THE GIRL WITH ME TODAY.

GIRL?

COME ON IN.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU UNTIL THE BROADCAST.

MY NAME IS ROTHION.

Chapter 38 「I DON'T KNOW MY OWN NAME.」

SHE'LL BE YOUR CO-HOST DURING THE RECORDING.

KODA-SAN.

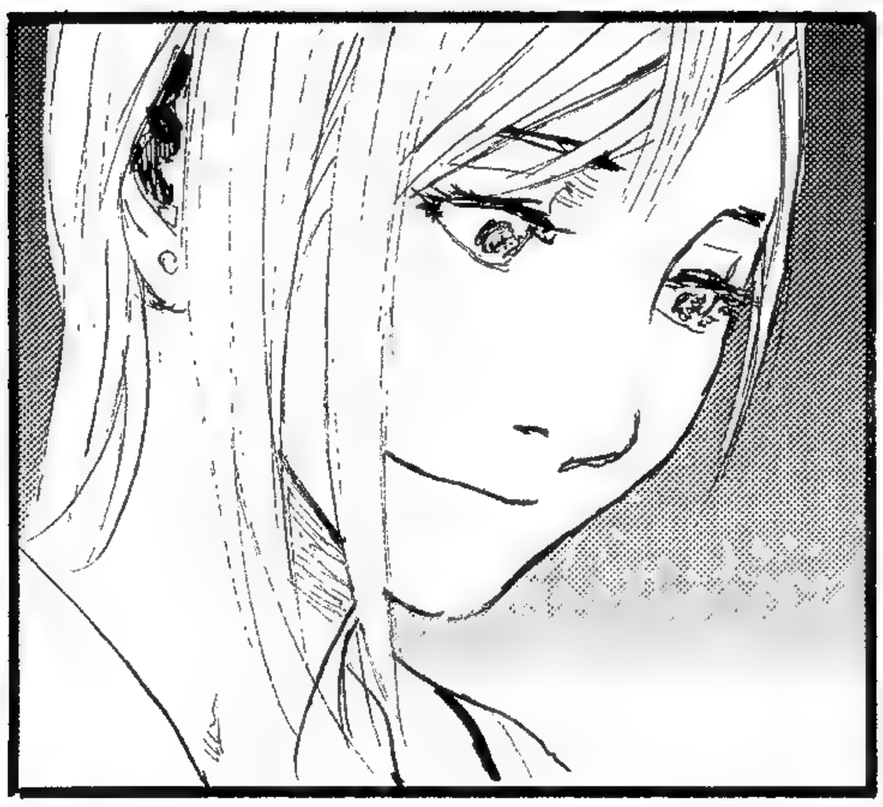
GAAAH!

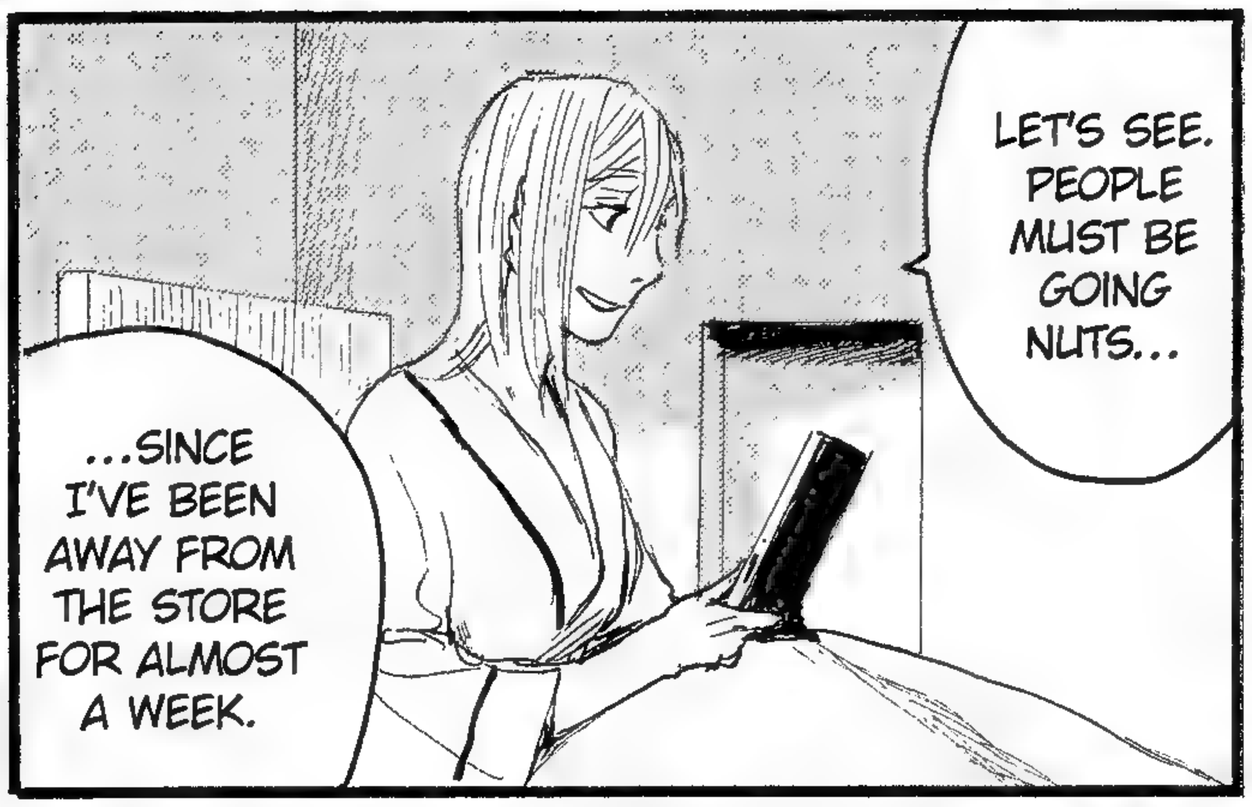
OH, UM...

MINARE-SAN'S BEEN LIKE THIS ALL MORNING.

WHAT'S WRONG?

PLEASED TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS ROTHION.





Soleil 10-19-2014 10:23:40 (Reply)

1 TURTLES!

I have a turtle, too! (^_^)
Mine's an Asian box turtle, but I haven't started prepping him for hibernation yet.
You don't have to if they're kept inside, though.
Post a picture of them sometime! (>∀<)

Crimson Pork Cutlet 10-19-2014 11:01:49 (Reply)

2 TACHIBANA-SAAAN!

Real talk, will you marry me?

Zombeer 10-19-2014 11:47:12 (Reply)

3 I'LL DEFINITELY STOP BY AGAIN TODAY.

Thank you for being so kind to my children yesterday. You were a big help. I can see why this store is doing so well.

Cloud Heart 10-19-2014 (Reply)

4 NO SUBJECT

I like begin my day with reading Tachibana-san's blog, and end it by enjoying a bowl of soup curry and a plate of fried chicken at Voyager while gazing at Tachibana-san from afar. Even I think I'm being creepy, but it's your fault I'm like this. I hope Crimson Pork Cutlet drops dead.

MIKA-DNA 10-19-2014 15:48:16 (Reply)

5 IT'S SO COLD THESE DAYS.

You've gotten really good at dealing with bad customers, Tachibana-san. Also, you've always been very pretty, but lately you seem much livelier and have this refined beauty to you. Are you in love by any chance? Lol

GOOD MORNING!

With October half over, it's really starting to get freezing outside, isn't it?

I'm babysitting three turtles for a friend who's on a trip right now, but lately they haven't been eating much and keep huddling together as if they're having some sort of meeting. I think I'm beginning to understand why people in olden times used to liken turtles to sages. But maybe I should be getting them ready for hibernation soon?

I hope you all stay warm and take care not to get sick, too.

Well, then. ***Today's featured bread*** is the GERMAN MISCHBROT and the FRENCH PAIN DE METEIL, both of the rye family. In Germany and France, the names of rye breads change depending on the ratio of rye flour used. Mischbrot and Pain de Meteil both use equal parts rye and wheat flour. It's amazing how the same ingredients can lead to such different personalities depending on the country of origin. Drop by Voyager and taste the difference yourself!

Happy-Bread Index: ★★★★

I'M SLOWLY BUT SURELY...

...LOSING MY STATUS AS VOYAGER'S POSTER GIRL.

WELCOME BACK, KODA-SAN. OH, YOU'RE GOING TO UPDATE THE BLOG? EVERYONE MIGHT BE DISAPPOINTED... HM? OH, NOTHING. JUST TALKING TO MYSELF. *HEH, HEH, HEH.*

I LOOK FORWARD TO CO-HOSTING WITH YOU*.

*MINARE'S INTERPRE-TATION: "YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT BY YOUR-SELF..."

AAAAAAAH

POSTER GIRL FOR A CURRY SHOP?

WHO GIVES A SHIT ABOUT THAT?

HOLD UP...

THAT'S RIGHT. I'VE BEEN CHOSEN BY THE STARS TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD THROUGH RADIO, TO-GETHER WITH MATO-SAN.

COMPARED TO THAT...

THIS IS BAD, MIZUHO!

LET'S FIGHT!

THAT'S RIGHT, MINARE-SAN! YOU WON'T GET ANYWHERE BY BEING CODDLED BY OTHER PEOPLE! SUCCESS THAT ISN'T EARNED IS A BIG FAT LIE!

IT FEELS LIKE THE GROUND'S CRUMBLING BENEATH MY FEET...

I'VE BEEN PROPPED UP BY MATO-SAN AND NAKAHARA-KUN ALL THIS TIME, BUT WITHOUT THEM AROUND, I MIGHT NOT BE THE HEROINE I THOUGHT I WAS!

NOTH-ING AT ALL.

NO.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN IN KUREKO-SAN'S ROOM LAST NIGHT?

MIZUHO'S BEING UN-USUALLY GUNG-HO.

I'LL WORK AS KUREKO-SAN'S ASSISTANT.

...I'VE BEEN IN CHARGE OF PRODUC-ING AND DIRECTING A NUMBER OF RADIO SHOWS,

ALL WHILE DIRECTING TRAFFIC FROM THE CONTROL ROOM.

NOT TO MENTION I THINK I COULD HELP KUREKO-SAN BRAINSTORM MATERIAL BETTER THAN YOU CAN.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO GO OUT OF YOUR WAY, HOKAKUSHI-SAN.

THAT'S WHY THE STATION HAD ME ACCOMPANY HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE.

OH, IS THAT SO? BUT YOU KNOW...

I'D REALLY RATHER HAVE SOMEONE WHO KNOWS HOW WE DO THINGS AT MRS BEHIND THE WHEEL.

HANG ON THERE, HOKAKUSHI-SAN.

SIM-PLE?!

FEEL FREE TO TAKE IT EASY AND CATCH UP ON SLEEP, NANBA-SAN.

BESIDES, OUR MEMBERS CAN TAKE CARE OF *SIMPLE* TASKS LIKE AD WORK.

I NEED HER TO TURN INTO A CAPABLE DIRECTOR WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE YEARS.

THEN I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D WORK WITH NANBA HERE.

ALSO, IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE IN RADIO PRODUCTION,

IT WAS GREAT THAT WE ALL RESOLVED TO BATTLE THIS CRAZY RELIGIOUS ORGANIZA-TION, BUT...

NOW SHE'S THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING AND BLUSH-ING...

A DIREC-TOR...

DON'T TELL ME THEY BONED.

CARE FOR SOME CALPIS*?

THE VIEW'S LOVELY FROM HERE, ISN'T IT?

*CALPIS: A JAPANESE MILK-BASED SOFT DRINK.

AAH!

WHOA...

IS THIS A CLUB-HOUSE FOR A BIRD-WATCHING SOCIETY OR SOME-THING?!

WHO'S IT SUPPOSED TO BE OPEN TO THIS DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS?!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "AS YOU CAN SEE"?

AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S AN OPEN STUDIO.

TRIKUMIA ISN'T *THAT* WEATHLY...

IS THIS WHAT YOU'D CALL A HOBBY OF THE RICH?!

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME! I CAN TELL HE'S LOADED BY HOW STRONG THIS HOT CALPIS IS!

WHO CARES IF YOU HAVE DEER, FOXES, AND BEARS FOR AN AUDIENCE?!

EZO SIKA DEER, EZO RED FOXES...

WHAT IS THIS, *THE JUNGLE BOOK?*

OH, WE ALSO GET THE OCCASIONAL BROWN BEAR.

ALL OF THE FOLLOWERS HAVE ONE. MINE IS ROTHION.

IT'S HIS BAPTISMAL NAME, THOUGH IT ISN'T LIKE THE SAINT NAMES USED IN CATHOLICISM.

SAY, WHAT'S WITH THE NAME "TRIKUMIA," ANYWAY?

HE DOESN'T LOOK HALF-JAPANESE OR ANY-THING.

SOUNDS LIKE AN EXPEN-SIVE WINE...

HIS IS CRUDONION.

WHAT ABOUT YOUNG SAIKI?

SHE'S KNOWN AS PALIROYA.

SO, HOKAKUSHI-SAN, TOO?

I HAVE AMNESIA AND CAN'T RECALL MY REAL NAME.

YOU SEE...

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

...ONLY HAVE A BAPTISMAL NAME.

I...

THEN WHAT'S YOUR FULL NAME?

IN JANUARY OF LAST YEAR, I COLLAPSED IN THE MIDDLE OF MT. ZAO AND WAS RESCUED BY A GROUP OF PEOPLE FROM THE SCHOOL OF WAVE WISDOM WHO WERE ON AN OUTING.

I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM BEFORE I COL-LAPSED...

AMNESIA?!

HMM. SO, STUFF LIKE THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS.

UH-HUH... I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S A CLICHÉ WAY OF GETTING SOMEONE TO TAKE ON A JOB, BUT WHATEVER.

...THAT I CAME INTO THIS WORLD FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF BECOMING THE SCHOOL'S PRIESTESS.

AT THE TIME, FATHER TRIKUMIA TOLD ME...

MT. ZAO... COL-LAPSED...

...HM? WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT BEFORE?

BUT Y'KNOW, SHE SURE IS AN HONEST GIRL. SHE HAS A CUTE VOICE, TOO.

I HOPE YOU'LL SHOW ME THE ROPES, KODA-SAN.

I'VE TRAINED TO BECOME A SONGSTRESS EVER SINCE, BUT THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME MY VOICE IS BROADCAST OVER THE AIR.

BUT THEY'RE WAY OFF. DIRECTORS ARE PERFORMERS WHO WREAK HAVOC ON THE SHOW WITH SOUND AND TIMING.

...WHO ALSO ASSIST THE WRITER AND SPEAKER.

MOST PEOPLE ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT DIREC-TORS...

...ARE JUST GLORIFIED DJS AND TIME KEEP-ERS...

AS THE ONES WITH THE MOST RESPONSIBILITY, WE ALSO GET TO THROW OUR WEIGHT AROUND.

WE CAN EVEN CUT OFF THE SPEAKER WHENEVER WE PLEASE. *THAT'S* WHAT GIVES A SHOW FLAVOR.

IF THE WRITER AND HOST ARE INGREDIENTS, THEN THE DIRECTOR IS THE CHEF.

SPEAKERS CAN MESS UP. IT'S ON US TO TURN THOSE MISTAKES INTO SOMETHING THAT ADDS TO A SUCCESSFUL SHOW.

YEESH. THAT'S HARSH.

SAYS THE SCRIPT-WRITER CURRENTLY GATHERING MATERIAL FOR A NEW BOOK. CARE TO PROVE ME WRONG?

DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO CATER TO THE WRITERS, EITHER.

EVEN IF THE RADIO INDUSTRY GOES UNDER, THEY'LL EVENTUALLY WASH UP SOME-WHERE ELSE.

Now, I know this is sudden, but it's time for a pop quiz! Where exactly might this open studio be located?

Today, we're coming to you from an open studio for the first since this show's conception.

You're listening to Minare Kode's *Wave, Listen to Me.*

THOSE WHO THINK THEY KNOW, SEND IN YOUR ANSWERS VIA FAX OR EMAIL BEFORE THE SHOW IS OVER.

...WILL RECEIVE A WHOPPING 200,000 YEN* FROM THE SHOW!

IT'LL BE PREEETTY HARD TO PINPOINT, BUT WHOEVER MANAGES TO GET IT RIGHT...

*APPROX. $2,000 USD.

With me today,

Good evening! My name is Rothion... I'm sure you're all thinking, "Who?"

Say hello to Rothion-san!

I have our very first guest since this show began.

...KNOWN AS THE SCHOOL OF WAVE WISDOM.

WE'RE A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZA-TION.

A SECRET ORGANIZA-TION?

ROTHION IS A PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER FOR A... WHAT EXACTLY WOULD YOU CALL IT?

THIS MUSIC...

And she just so happens to be super slender mixed beauty...

THEY'RE FREQUENCIES USED IN A SCALE IN WHICH A IS TUNED TO 444 HERTZ, AND C IS TUNED TO 528 HERTZ.

SOL-FEGGIO FRE-QUENCY?

YOU RECOG-NIZE IT?

IT'S A SONG WRITTEN IN THE SOLFEGGIO FREQUENCY SCALE.

IT'S AN EVIL SCALE THAT INSTILLS FEAR IN PEOPLE AND ROBS THEM OF THEIR CREATIVITY.

IT'S SAID THAT THIS STANDARD WAS PUSHED BY THE ROCKEFELLER GROUP AT THE 1939 LONDON CONFERENCE.

THESE DAYS, MOST OF THE WORLD USES A STANDARD PITCH SCALE WITH A TUNED TO 440 HERTZ,

ALSO KNOWN AS EQUAL TEMPERA-MENT.

IT'S THEORIZED THAT THE SOLFEGGIO FREQUENCIES HAVE THE POWER TO HEAL PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA AND EVEN REPAIR DNA.

THE SCALE COMPOSED OF SOL-FEGGIO FREQUEN-CIES IS KNOWN AS JUST INTONA-TION.

SUPPOSEDLY, IT WAS USED IN THE COMPOSITION OF ANCIENT GREGORIAN CHANTS.

IT'S A SCALE THAT USES NATURAL HARMONICS.

NOT SO MUCH ME AS TRIKUMIA.

HE'S PUBLISHED A NUMBER OF BOOKS ON THE SUBJECT.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT STUFF?

...NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING A CULT WOULD BELIEVE.

IT'S VERY SOOTHING, ISN'T IT? TRIKUMIA TOOK HER IN SOLELY BECAUSE OF HER VOICE.

HER VOICE HAS A FREQUENCY OF 741 HERTZ, THE MEDIAN OF THE SOLFEGGIO SCALE.

THE SAME GOES FOR ROTHION.

WELL, WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR BOAT.

NAH...

DO YOU FIND THIS KIND OF FIXATION SILLY?

IF WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A SHOW, THEN WE MIGHT AS WELL GO WITH SOMEONE WHO WILL CAPTIVATE AS MANY LISTENERS AS POSSIBLE.

GOOD WORK, EVERYONE!

CHEERS!

I'M SORRY I WASN'T ABLE TO ATTEND THE RECORDING.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, KUREKO-SAN.

GOOD WORK, KODA-SAN.

NO SWEAT...

PROFES-SIONAL EDITING...

CAPABLE SPEAKERS,

A SEASONED WRITER,

JUST WON-DERFUL, ISN'T IT?

KODA AND ROTHION ARE THE ONES YOU SHOULD PRAISE. I DIDN'T DO MUCH...

LISTEN TO IT AGAIN AFTER THE EDITING'S DONE.

I HAD A LISTEN TO THE RAW AUDIO AND I MUST SAY I'M QUITE PLEASED! WASSAMU AND SAPPORO CLEARLY HAVE GREAT CHEMISTRY.

ON THE OTHER HAND,

WE HAVE ALL THESE AMATEURS UPLOADING SUCH SHODDY VIDEOS...

I SWEAR, I WISH THOSE SMALL FRY WOULD LEARN THEIR PLACE.

NOW, NOW, HANAWA-SAN.

ANIMUS TOWARD THE INDUSTRY ASIDE, I'D LIKE TO RECONFIRM WHAT THE PLAN IS FROM HERE ON.

...THEY WON'T BE AIRED UNTIL THE 25TH OF OCTOBER AND THE 1ST OF NOVEMBER.

IF POSSIBLE, ONCE THE FIRST SHOW GOES LIVE ON THE 25TH...

WE'VE RECORDED TWO WEEKS' WORTH OF SHOWS,

BUT EVEN IF WE SEND THE AUDIO TO MOIWAYAMA RADIO AS SOON AS THE EDITING'S DONE...

NANBA-SAN.

PLEASE BILL ME FOR THE PRODUCTION COSTS AND SLOT USAGE AFTER THE FACT.

FEAR NOT.

I'VE NEVER CAUSED ANY TROUBLE ON THE FINANCIAL SIDE OF THINGS.

...I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D RELEASE US FROM HERE.

TRUE... VERY WELL. I GIVE YOU MY WORD THAT YOU'LL BE RELEASED ON THAT DAY.

OUR SCHEDULES ARE REALLY STARTING TO BACK UP.

...FOR TEASING YOU SO MUCH UNTIL NOW.

I'D LIKE TO APOLO-GIZE...

HUH? OH... SURE. THANK YOU.

OH, PLEASE... YOU'RE JUST HAVING JUICE?

CARE FOR SOME WHITE WINE?

Her outfit looks like video game DLC...

...THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

YOU'LL REGRET IT IF YOU FALL FOR SOMEONE LIKE HIM.

...YES.

SOMEONE WHO ISN'T YOU.

BUT KUREKO-SAN HAS SOMEONE HE LIKES AT THE STATION, DOESN'T HE?

THIS IS JUST A HUNCH,

BUT, WELL...

I DIDN'T EVEN THINK TO QUESTION ANYTHING HE DID.

I WAS JUST SO IN LOVE WITH HIM AT THE TIME.

HANAWA-SAN AND I WERE ALREADY SEEING EACH OTHER BACK THEN,

SO I WISH I HAD GIVEN HIM SOME KIND OF WARN-ING AFTER SEEING THE SHOW PLAN.

I TOLD YOU ABOUT HOW TRIKUMIA... HANAWA-SAN RESIGNED FROM THE TV STATION AFTER PRODUC-ING A MORALLY QUESTIONABLE SEGMENT, DIDN'T I?

I SUPPOSE IT'S ANOTHER STORY IF YOU GET MARRIED.

WELL,

...AND STILL MANAGE TO RUN A TIGHT SHIP.

YOU KNOW, NANBA-SAN.

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT YOU HEAR ABOUT PEOPLE WHO FALL FOR SOMEONE IN THE OFFICE...

FRANKLY, WHAT GOES ON BETWEEN KUREKO-SAN AND ME IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

HUH? SURE, BUT...

WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON?

IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, MAY WE EXCHANGE PHONE NUMBERS?

HOKA-KUSHI-SAN.

I THINK THERE'S...A LOT I COULD LEARN FROM YOU.

BUT...

...YOU'RE ALSO THE FIRST EXPERIENCED PRODUCER I'VE MET OUTSIDE OF MRS.

I'D APPRECIATE IT IF COULD GET YOUR ADVICE FROM NOW ON, AS WELL.

...CER-TAINLY.

APPARENTLY, MINARE-SAN'S TALKING ABOUT A HIGH SCHOOL BOY-FRIEND.

"THEN WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, WEARING POLO SHIRTS IN SUMMER WHEN YOU DON'T PLAY POLO, TENNIS, OR GOLF?!"

AH, HA, HA!

AND THIS GUY HAS THE GALL TO TELL ME NOT TO WEAR THE ROLLING STONES SHIRTS WHEN I'M NOT EVEN A FAN,

SO I GET IN HIS FACE AND TELL HIM,

YEAH...

...I GUESS IT WAS SORT OF AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE?

Y'KNOW, NOW THAT IT'S OVER...

OOP. BATH'S READY.

I'M GONNA GO GET SOME BEERS. YOU HOP IN FIRST, MINARE-SAN.

LET'S DRINK SOME MORE AFTER YOU GET OUT.

THERE ARE A FEW RESTAU-RANTS I WANNA HIT. LIKE BABA HORMONE.

JUST THREE MORE DAYS UNTIL WE'RE FREE, HUH?

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN IN ASAHIKAWA THEN GO HOME.

WE STILL HAVE PRACTICALLY ALL OF KUREKO-SAN'S ABANDONED VILLAGE RESEARCH TO DO.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN HAVE FUN THEN GO HOME?

WHY DID WE EVEN COME THEN...?

MAYBE I'LL TRY MAKING A LIST OF SOME PLACES FROM KO KITAMORI NOVELS HE CAN PROBABLY BITE OFF OF AND SEE IF HE'LL SETTLE FOR THAT.

UGH, SERI-OUSLY?

...IT'S EASY TO OVERLOOK A LOT AS LONG AS THE BATH-TUB'S CLEAN AND ROOMY, HUH?

PHEW... Y'KNOW, WHEN IT COMES TO HOTELS,

I'M GONNA DROWN IF I PASS OUT DRUNK IN HERE.

...AH, SHIT.

WHEW, IT'S COLD...

OH, HEY. IT OPENED.

I SHOULD LET SOME AIR IN.

THIS MAKES FIVE STATIONS.

I'D SAY IT'S ABOUT TIME.

SAPPORO BROAD-CASTING,

HOKKAIDO CULTURAL BROAD-CASTING,

AND MOIWAYAMA RADIO.

MHK SENDAI,

AOMORI MORNING BROAD-CASTING,

...THEY'LL ALL BECOME IMPROVISED LRADS.

IN JUST HALF A MONTH...

...?

LRAD?

wave
LISTEN
TO ME!

Chapter 39 「I WON'T SAY IT.」

YES, SIR.

D-DAY IS NOVEMBER FIRST.

EPIRRHOE, PLEASE DRAFT UP THE PROCLAMATION.

PROCLA-MATION?

SAY WHAT?

I WAS ABOUT TO HEAD TO BED, BUT...

UHH...

HOW DO I PUT IT?

...I WANTED TO GET YOUR OPINION ON SOME-THING.

The room's bugged, so can we write at each other?

...AND TURNED HER TWITTER INTO A LOVEY-DOVEY RELATION-SHIP BLOG.

WELL, SHE STARTED DATING THIS HANDSOME GUY A WHILE AGO...

...AND ENDED UP BREAK-ING UP WITH HER BOYFRIEND OVER IT.

BUT APPARENT-LY, SHE LOST OVER HALF HER FOLLOW-ERS...

SO, THERE'S THIS OLDER GIRL FROM HIGH SCHOOL I KNOW.

Any idea what an "LRAD" is?

SHE'S PRETTY CUTE AND POSTS SELFIES ON TWITTER EVERY SINGLE DAY, RIGHT?

I overheard Trikumia and his lackies talking. They also said something about "D-day" and a "proclamation."

I KNOW, RIGHT?

THE HELL? THAT'S PRETTY STUPID.

Where'd you hear that word?

MEMO

D-day...?

LRAD's probably referring to "long range acoustic device." What was the context?

IF SHE'S WILLING TO GO THAT FAR, SHE SHOULD TRY TO MAKE IT IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY.

MEMO

An LRAD is a type of audio weapon.

I KNOW THIS GAL WHO OFTEN MAKES ME WONDER IF SHE SOLD HER BRAIN ON EBAY.

He named a few radio stations (including MRS) and said they'd become improvised LRADs.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES PEOPLE HAPPY?

SO, I TRIED SPEAKING IN HER LANGUAGE AND TOLD HER THAT ACCORDING TO BLOOD TYPE, WESTERN ZODIAC, CHINESE ZODIAC, *AND* ZOOLOGICAL FORTUNE-TELLING, THEY WERE AWFUL FOR EACH OTHER.

Weapon?

AND WHILE SHE NEVER LISTENS TO NORMAL ADVICE, SHE LOVES FORTUNE-TELLING BULLSHIT.

Audio...

SHE ALWAYS FALLS FOR THE WORST GUYS. THE KIND YOU CAN TELL ARE SCUM AT FIRST GLANCE.

"WELL, SIX-STAR ASTROLOGY SAID WE'RE SOULMATES, SO THERE."

MEMO

Most long range acoustic devices are used for peacekeeping and disaster prevention purposes, but the military also uses them as nonlethal riot control weapons. Rather, that's what they were developed for in the first place. They're used to disable people with sound.

...they could be planning some kind of terrorism.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT SHE SAID?

I thought these guys were fishy, but if worst comes to worst...

...SHE SEEMS HAPPY NOW.

Partially, I guess. Then again, the Solfeggio frequencies are more fantasy than reality.

THAT SAID...

SHE ENDED UP MARRYING THE GUY.

SO, WHAT DID SHE DO?

Is it like the opposite of the Solfeggio frequencies Hokakushi-san mentioned?

That's so long...

THE POINT IS, HAPPINESS ISN'T MEASURED BY OTHER PEOPLE.

This is all shit I heard from Komoto, but the whole "the international pitch standard A = 440 Hz is an evil scale that robs people of their creativity" thing that Solfeggio frequency believers buy is a bunch of bunk. The most commonly used pitch these days is A = 442 Hz. It's been that way for 30 years, both in homes and in concert halls. A = 440 Hz is an outdated pitch. Besides, even if you believe that the Solfeggio frequency (A = 444 Hz) is good for the brain and try to broadcast something over the air in said frequency, when you take manufacturer differences in receivers and sound degradation into account,

By the time it actually reaches the listener's ears, the pitch could be 441 or even 445 Hz. The same variation occurs in live performances. The sound of instruments changes depending on temperature and humidity. There are very few cases where music you think is in a Solfeggio frequency is actually A = 444 Hz.

By the same logic, the idea that ancient Gregorian chants were composed in the Solfeggio scale is also total bullshit.

Who the hell would know that songs from the same time as the Heian period were sung at 444 Hz? Back when tuning meters didn't even exist, no less.

So, it's cool to just let them do their thing, then? I mean, it's occult garbage, right?

BUT SCUM NEVER REFORM (SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE).

MEMO

Who cares about the Solfeggio stuff? What matters is the LRAD.

WHAT, AND YOU THINK YOUR SHIT SMELLS LIKE ROSES?

PHEW...

MEMO

Well, while I'm pretty sure the LRAD they spoke of was a metaphor for "sound weapon," no matter how destructive of audio they try to play during the show, I doubt that the speakers and earphones people use to listen to the broadcast would work on the same level as LRAD speakers.

That said...

NOT THAT I'M ONE TO TALK, THOUGH.

MEMO

They might be some kind of anti-establishment organization.

I COULD HEAR HER CRYING WHILE CHOPPING SOMETHING.

I TRIED CALLING HER A WHILE AGO.

MEMO

What's crucial to take from this (judging by the Solfeggio stuff, too) is that this cult is probably researching frequencies and sound waves that affect the human brain.

MEMO

NAH. APPARENTLY, THEY GOT INTO HUGE FIGHT THE OTHER DAY...

This "D-day" thing likely refers to the planned broadcast date when they'll use the edited programs they had all the stations make to inflict some sort of serious damage to the listeners. They also probably plan to lace it with some kind of audio data. Of course, that goes for the show we recorded today, too.

...AND SHE'D BEEN COOKING FOR HIM TO TRY AND MAKE UP.

CHOP-PING WHAT?

ONIONS?

CRYING WHILE CHOP-PING?

Gulp...

Gulp...

...they could probably use this as a threat to leverage negotiations with all sorts of places.

If we're talking extreme examples,

the Japanese government, for one.

...WAS CHICKEN FRIED IN A BANANA PASTE BATTER.

THAT'S SWEET.

What do you think they're after?

BY THE WAY,

This is kind of a stretch, but if they can pull this off a number of times while staying under everyone's radar...

THE DISH SHE WAS MAKING THAT DAY...

NO KIDDING.

THAT SOUNDS REALLY BAD!

Well, that was mostly just a super imaginative hypothetical situation. We could be getting worked up for no reason.
Even if they try something close to that, it's a pretty lofty plan, so there's a good chance they'll hit a snag at some point.
Let's keep an eye on them for now.

BUT HER HUSBAND, STILL SCOWLING, WOLFED DOWN THE WHOLE THING WITHOUT SAYING A WORD.

'COURSE, THAT JUST GOES TO SHOW SHE HADN'T REALLY FORGIVEN HIM YET.

for a made-up story, that was pretty vivid...

EVEN SCUM-BAGS HAVE GOOD IN 'EM.

MORAL OF THE STORY,

I'M GONNA HIT THE SACK.

I BROUGHT YOU SOME BEER AND SNACKS.

MAN, THINGS ARE LOOKIN' BLEAK...

WELCOME BACK.

I GOTTA SAY...

OH, SORRY!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING IN A LADY'S ROOM PASSED MIDNIGHT?!

THEY HEARD YOU WANTED BEER AND TOLD ME TO BRING YOU SOME...

YOU OUGHTA READ ARTICLE 61 OF THE LABOR STANDARDS ACT.

WHISPER

?

WHISPER

EVEN IF THEY ARE, I DOUBT HE KNOWS THAT!

MI-NARE-SAN!

...IT'S HARD TO THINK A KID'S IN CAHOOTS WITH AN EVIL ORGANIZA-TION.

ER... YES, OF COURSE.

HUH?

WHEN WE LEAVE,

...WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

IF I ASKED YOU TO COME WITH US...

HIROMI.

DO YOU LIKE THE PEOPLE IN THE SCHOOL OF WAVE WISDOM?

SAY, HIROMI-KUN.

FUCK, I JUST MIGHT...

OH, MY...

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, THEN I'LL GO WITH YOU, MINARE-SAN.

JUST SO YOU KNOW, I THINK GUYS WHO LIKE ME ARE TOTAL MASOCHISTS, OKAY?

UM... W-WELL, YES...

YOU LIKE MINARE-SAN, DON'T YOU?

IS THAT THE ONLY WAY I CAN AT-TRACT GUYS?!

WELL, WHATEVER. SO, TOMORROW, HIROMI...

I REALLY ADMIRE YOUR DEVIL-MAY-CARE ATTITUDE, MINARE-SAN.

THE BELIEVERS ARE ALL NICE PEOPLE,

BUT THEY'RE A LITTLE TOO... SUBMISSIVE, I GUESS? THEY'RE JUST SO OBEDIENT.

ZZT ZZT

?!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HARD WORK TODAY.

GREET-INGS, EVERY-ONE.

AT THE WRAP PARTY, I SAID THAT YOU WOULD BE RELEASED ON THE 25TH OF OCTOBER.

...I MUST RETRACT THAT STATEMENT.

DUE TO CERTAIN CIRCUM-STANCES...

I HAVE AN UNFORTUNATE ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE.

...you overheard our conversation, no?

My friends,

it would seem...

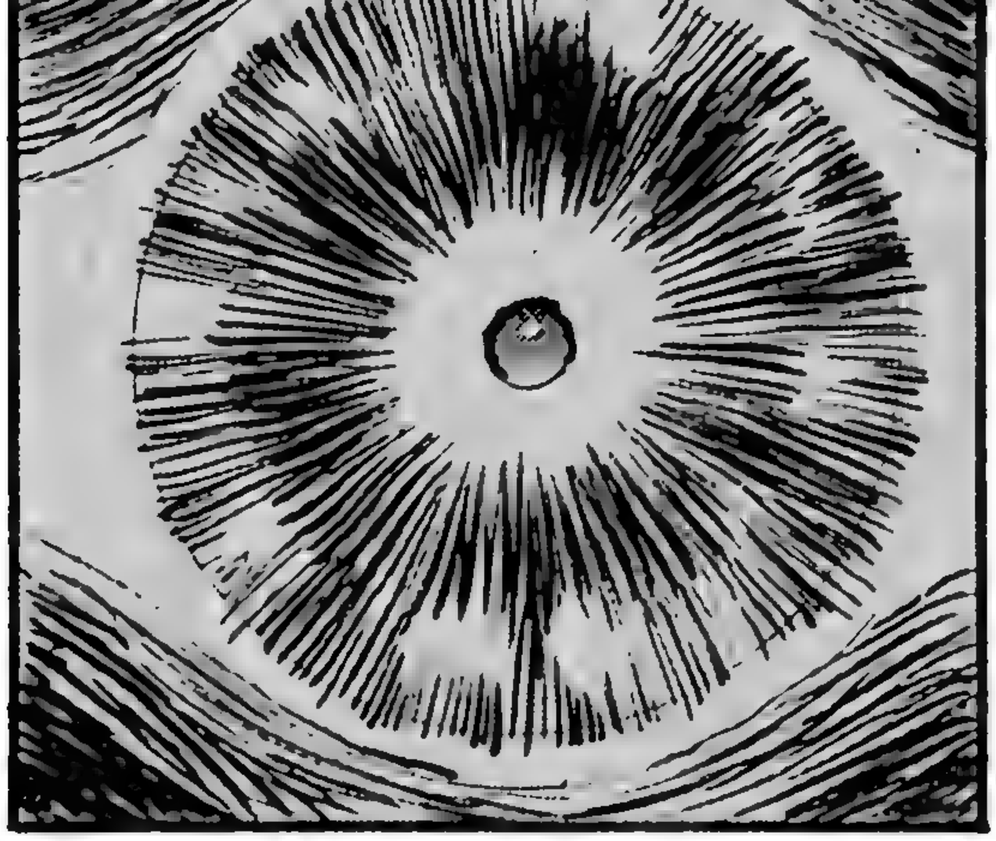
DO THEY HAVE CCD CAMS INSTALLED OR WHAT?

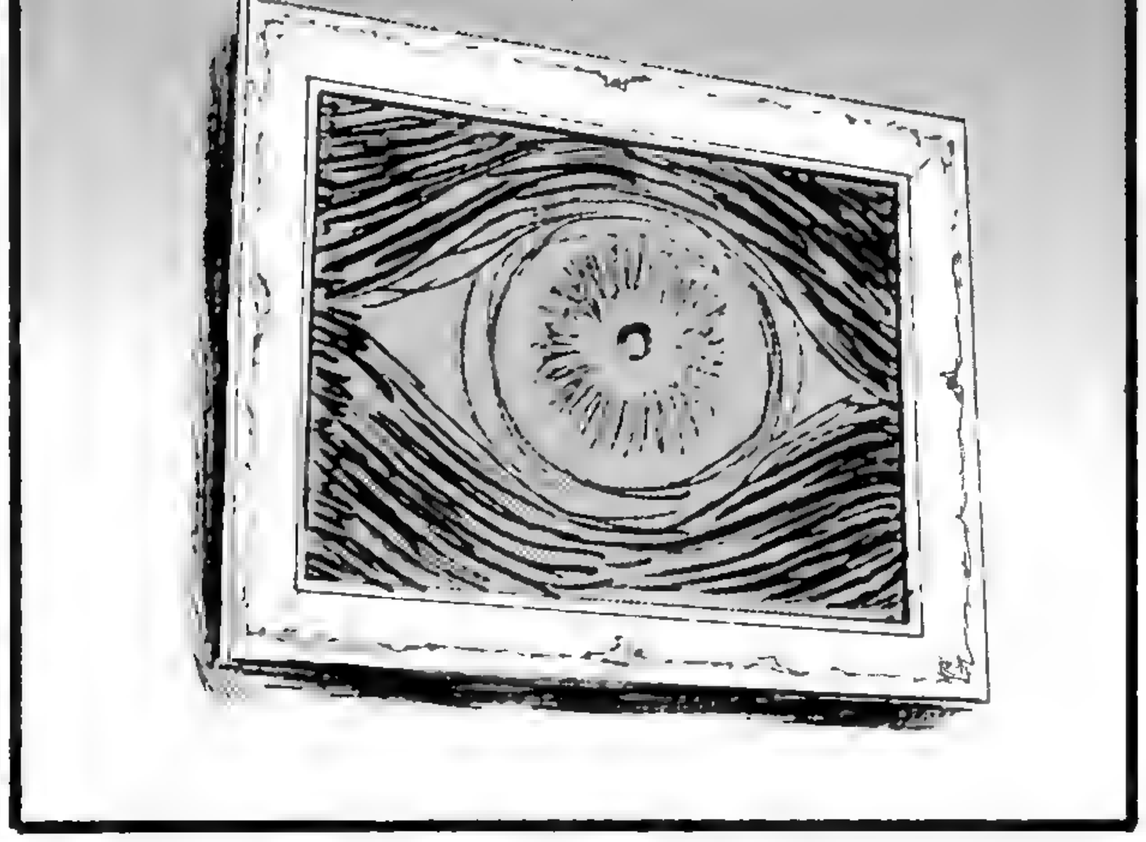
FIGURES... WE GOT CARELESS.

By the look on your faces, I take it you're wondering how we knew despite the fact that you communicated in writing.

HOW DOES HE KNOW?!

BUT WE COMMUNI-CATED IN WRITING!





YES? WHAT IS IT?
Hanawa-san.
Regarding my analysis earlier.
Since the jig's up, lemme ask you some-thing.

How much of that actually hit the mark?
WELL, LET ME JUST SAY YOU WERE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.
HA, HA, HA.

HOKA-KUSHI-SAN.

ARE YOU JUST GONNA DRAG YOUR BELIEVERS DOWN WITH YOU?

IF YOU WANNA PLAY THE VILLAIN, THEN WHY DON'T YOU DO IT ALONE?

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU REGRETTED THINGS? THAT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOU SHOULD HAVE WARNED HIM THAT HE WAS GOING DOWN THE WRONG PATH...

ISN'T NOW...

...ONE OF THOSE TIMES?

...BUT COULDN'T BECAUSE YOU WERE BLINDED BY LOVE?!

ZO FTZZ

CLICK

!

I seem to recall you mostly just watched videos on the tablet, minare-san...

WE GIVE HIM OUR WHOLE-HEARTED COOPERATION DAY IN AND DAY OUT, THEN HE TURNS AROUND AND PULLS THIS BULLSHIT...

I'M ABOUT TO GO PSYCHO KILLER ON THAT TALKING HEAD.

I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT...I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS.

DID SOME-THING JUST CLICK?

HM? WHAT WAS THAT?

I NEGLECTED TO MENTION, THOSE ROOMS ONLY LOCK FROM THE OUTSIDE.

They're confinement chambers, after all.

WHAT?! THE DOOR'S LOCKED!

WELL, THIS SUCKS. HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE?

AND IT'S A 20-METER DROP FROM THERE.

ONLY THE BATHROOM WINDOW OPENS,

IT'S COOL.

THIS ISN'T SOMETHING A GOFER LIKE YOU CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT.

SORRY. THIS WHOLE THING MADE ME BREAK INTO A COLD SWEAT.

HUH?! UH, SURE...

...MIND IF I TAKE ANOTHER BATH, MIZUHO?

CAN I BORROW YOUR PHONE FOR A SEC?

HM? OKAY.

OH, AND HIROMI.

I SURE HOPE THEY WOULDN'T PUT CAMERAS IN THE BATHROOM, ANYWAY.

AND EVEN IF THEY DID...

...THE WALLS ARE PRETTY TIGHT, SO THEY SHOULD BE EASY TO SPOT.

ALRIGHTY.

WHY THE HELL DID YOU COME IN HERE?!

HEY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MINARE-SAN?

NOPE, NOTHING.

IF YOU LIKE ME, THEN SHUT UP. GOT IT?!

HO CAP

...YOU TOOK YOUR BAG INTO THE BATH—

I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS A LITTLE STRANGE THAT...

OH... SORRY!

WHAT ARE YOU ...?

SHRK
SHRK
SHRK
SHRK

...AH!

SHOOF
SHOOF
SHOOF
SHOOF

HEIMPLANET
INFLATABLE TENT
91,800 YEN (TAX INC.)

PHEW... THIS IS SPOOKY.

M'KAY.

WHEN WE GET OUT OF HERE,

I'LL TREAT YOU TO AS MUCH MEAT AS YOU CAN STUFF DOWN YOUR GULLET.

HIROMI...

MI-

BULK UP THAT BELLY AND THOSE SCRAWNY ARMS...

...AND BECOME A MAN WHO HAS THE CHOPS TO HANDLE A GIRL LIKE ME!

TWO

MINARE-SAN!

AFTERWORD

Greetings, everyone. I hope you all enjoyed this supposedly-Hokkaido-themed-yet-shockingly-snowless fifth edition of *Wave, Listen to Me!* I actually visited Wassamu to gather material for this volume, and while I was there, I saw signs all around town advertising a local landmark known as the Forest of Giants *(Kyoboku-no-Mori),* home to the iconic 1,000-year old Mongolian oak tree. My interest piqued, I decided to follow the signs to said tourist trap, only to be greeted by a seedy little sign which ruefully read: "We regret to inform you that our beloved ancient Mongolian oak collapsed last year due to heavy snowfall. For your own safety, please do not enter."—a tidbit which made it into the story. And while the sign said "last year," judging by its shabby state, I reckon it'd already been several years since the tragedy. Oh, well. I have no problem with nature taking its course. What I want to know is…if you're gonna bother putting a sign at the entrance telling people tree's dead, do not enter, couldn't you have at least tacked that on to the other signs in town too? I got blisters on my feet for nothing. *Phew.* Now that that's out of my system, as I flip through the draft for this volume, it occurs to me that I only ended up using maybe a fourth of the material I gathered, so maybe I'm really the one who should be apologizing. How embarrassing. My bad, Wassamu. Of the some 500 pictures I took, only about 20 made it in. Saw a Seicomart there, though, so that's cool. Well, until next time. See you in volume 6.

Hiroaki Samura

Wave, Listen to Me! 5

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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Chapter 46 「I CAN'T LOSE ANYTHING!」

ボッ
ボッ
ボッ
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ボッ
ボッ
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ボッ
BOING

FWUMP!!
TMP
GRRF
...
OW...
FUCK...
CURSE YOU, TAIL-BONE...

OH, THERE'S MIZUHO.

SHH SHH

KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!

MINARE-SAN!

MAN, I'M AWE-SOME.

NOT THAT THEY HAVE ANY OBSTACLES LIKE THIS, THOUGH.

I SHOULD BE ON NINJA WARRIOR.

I'LL EXPOSE YOUR DASTARDLY DEEDS TO THE WHOLE WORLD!

JUST YOU WAIT, YOU CULTIST BAS-TARDS.

JUST SIT TIGHT! I'LL GET HELP!

THREE DAYS LATER

Welp, catch you all next week.

We're still looking for emails for our "Friends who seem like they razed an innocent village in a past life" segment.

...YOU LET US OVER-HEAR YOUR PLANS ON PURPOSE, DIDN'T YOU?

THEN I'LL GO AHEAD 'N SEND IT TO THE STATION AS A HALF-PACK.*

PLEASE DO.

*HALF-PACKAGE: AN AIR-READY (FULL-PACKAGE) SHOW WITHOUT COMMERCIALS.

OKAY.

I'D SAY IT'S A GOOD SHOW.

PERSON-
ALLY I'M
HAPPY
ABOUT IT,
TOO.

I BET
TRIKUMIA'S
PRETTY
PLEASED
WITH HIM-
SELF.

JUST
SO YOU'D
HAVE AN
EXCUSE
TO KEEP
US HERE.

...WHAT?!
REALLY?

HELLO?

ALL
RIGHT.
THANK
YOU.

I'LL BE
OVER WITH
KUREKO-
SAN IN A
MOMENT.

...BUT SEEING AS THERE WEREN'T ANY CALLS OVER 30 SECONDS IN THE LOG, WE BELIEVE SHE HASN'T CALLED FOR HELP.

WE ALSO RECOVERED CRUDONION'S PHONE WHICH WE ASSUME SHE HAD ON HER...

WE SEIZED HER IN THE CAPTURE HOLE ABOUT 40 MINUTES AGO.

ONCE I GOT OUT, I TRIED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH SOMEONE AT MRS OR VOYAGER, BUT...

HEAR ME OUT!

I WENT THROUGH HELL, Y'KNOW!

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

I DON'T KNOW THEIR NUMBERS BY HEART!

I ALWAYS JUST PULL UP MY CONTACTS.

AH, SHIT!

USELESS!

BACK AT YOU.

You've reached Moiwayama Radio. We're sorry, but we're unavailable to take your call at this time, please...

The store is currently closed. Our normal business hours are...

BUT ALL I FOUND WERE CUSTOMER SERVICE LINES...

SO, I TRIED LOOKING ON THEIR HOMEPAGES,

SO I TRIED LOOKING UP AN ADDRESS OR SOME COORDI-NATES, BUT THEN...

BUT I FIGURED IT'D TAKE FOREVER TO FIND US IF I JUST TOLD THEM "SOME-WHERE IN THE TOWA-TORYO AREA,"

I WISH SHE'D THOUGHT OF THAT FIRST!

THAT'S WHEN IT HIT ME. "I KNOW, I'LL CALL THE POLICE!"

SO, WITHOUT MUCH TO DO BESIDES WANDER THROUGH THE WOODS,

I SIPPED THE DEW FROM GRASS, NIBBLED ON WILD YAMS,

DUKED IT OUT WITH BEARS...

AFTER THAT, I TRIED MAKING IT BACK TO CIVILIZATION, BUT QUICKLY FOUND OUT THE MOUNTAIN WAS TEEMING WITH CRONIES.

I DROPPED THE PHONE AND BOOKED IT.

...I WAS SPOTTED BY A MANHUNT TEAM WITH FIVE DOBERMANS IN TOW.

It's tempting. Real tempting.

SORRY, YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO HELP...

THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I FELL INTO THAT SAME HOLE FROM BEFORE AND HERE I AM, BACK WHERE I STARTED!

YOU'D DARE LAUGH AT ME AFTER ALL THIS?!

...NO JOKE?

WE HAVE MEMBERS WHO ARE FORMER JIU-JITSU FIGHTERS AND SUMO WRESTLERS IF THAT'S MORE YOUR THING.

MINARE-SAN!

HOKA-KUSHI-SAN.

YOUNG AND SLENDER MIGHT BE BEAUTIFUL, BUT I'M A SELF-RESPECTING ADULT, Y'KNOW.

YOU'D BE SO MUCH BETTER OFF IF YOU'D JUST WARM UP TO LIVING HERE.

YOU GET TO MAKE AS MANY RADIO AND TV SHOWS AS YOU WANT.

I'M FINE, THANK YOU...

WHAT ABOUT YOU, NANBA-SAN? I TAKE IT YOU'RE INTO MOODY MIDDLE-AGED MEN?

WE'RE EVEN PROVIDING YOU WITH LOVELY *COMPANY.*

THE FOOD (PUMPKIN) IS GOOD TOO.

WH-WHO ARE YOU?

HEH HEH. YOU FORGOT? HOW COLD...

LEAVE HER TO ME.

WHO...?

KEY-MARTH!

HANG ON, PALIROYA!

AAAAH! I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT!

I'M THE ADONIS YOU SPRAYED WITH BEAR REPELLANT THEN PUSHED OUT THE WINDOW TEN DAYS AGO!

HOKA-KUSHI-SAN.

.....

.....

I COM-
PLETELY
FORGOT.

DURING
THE INTRO,

I'D
BRUSHED IT
ASIDE SINCE
WE DIDN'T
BRING THE
AUDIO WITH
US.

WE
USUALLY
PLAY A RAP
IN THE BACK-
GROUND.

THERE'S
SOMETHING I
WANT YOU TO
ADD TO THE
SHOW.

BUT
NOW THAT I
THINK ABOUT
IT, WE CAN
JUST THROW
SOMETHING
TOGETHER.

MIND IF WE
RECORD A
NEW RAP?

TO
KEEP UP
APPEAR-
ANCES,
Y'KNOW?
PLEASE.

KODA!

...WELL, I
SUPPOSE
IT'S ALL
RIGHT.

...THE HELL'S THIS SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

Yas ar got exal.
Samuel das nighe.
Samuel las nighe work.
Urine NoNo means nack a
know na My. of orninngus.
On near'n a door who she.
Urine Na Na No No men us.
Odd es Young Noreen.

AND JUST LIKE THE LAST OPENING,

THOSE LYRICS MIGHT NOT EVEN COVER THE WHOLE THEME.

WE'LL RAISE THE PITCH AND DO SOME TWEAKING.

?

IN A SENSE, YOU COULD SAY THAT'S THE *DEEPER MEANING.*

IT'S JUST SUPPOSED TO SOUND GOOD.

NOTH-ING.

...FEEL FREE TO TOSS IN YOUR OWN LYRICS, KODA.

IF WE NEED TO FILL TIME...

READ THOSE LYRICS OUT LOUD...

...AND GET A GOOD FEEL FOR HOW THEY SOUND.

WE'LL RECORD IN AN HOUR.

EVEN NUMBERS IF YOU WANT.

DOESN'T MATTER. IT CAN BE JAPANESE, ENGLISH.

BUT, UHH... WHAT SHOULD I EVEN SAY?

got exal.
Samuel das night.
Samuel las night work.
Urine No No me
know

Today, we're coming to you from an open studio...

...Hey, y'all. Minare Koda here. Welcome to *Wave, Listen to Me.*

This is Minare Koda's *Wave, Listen to Meee!*

It'll be preeetty hard to pinpoint, but whoever manages to get it right will receive a whopping 200,000 yen from the show!

Now, I know this is sudden, but it's time for a pop quiz! Where exactly might this open studio be located?

...for the first since this show's conception.

Rothion is a public relations officer for a... what exactly would you call it? A secret organization?

Those who think they know, send in your answers via FAX or email before the show is over.

I have our very first guest since this show began.

With me today,

Good evening! My name is Rothion... I'm sure you're all thinking, "Who?"

Say hello to Rothion-san!

We're a non-profit organization.

...Known as the School of Wave Wisdom!

MRS

WHAT'S UP, MATO-SAN?

HEY, KOMOTO. C'MERE FOR A SEC.

...RITSU-KO?

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

Wave, Listen to Me

Nov 1 Show

Katsumi Kureko
To: Me

To Kanetsugu Mato-sama,

Good evening. This is Kureko.

I've attached the audio for the Wave, Listen to Me Novembe show. Thanks to the help of the School of Wave Wisdom non-profit, it's turned out to be a great segment.

In line with the previous shows, please implement the TCM.

As for the intro theme, since we didn't bring the audio with us, we were forced to record a new one on short notice, but I think you'll be very pleased with the result.
I apologize for the delay. It took longer than expected to get everything ready.

If it looks like we'll have to stay for even longer, I'll send Koda and Nan

I apologize again for the inconveni

Let me know your thoughts on the my regards to Komot

GOTCHA...

BEATS ME. HE'S NEVER EMAILED ME DIRECTLY BEFORE.

OFF...?

ANYTHING SEEM OFF TO YOU?

I JUST GOT AN EMAIL FROM KUREKO WITH THE PROGRAM RIGHT BEFORE AIRTIME.

...

HE'S ALWAYS SO BLUNT IN PERSON...

KUREKO-SAN SURE SOUNDS POLITE IN HIS EMAILS.

SOUNDS NEAT, HUH?

ON TOP OF THAT, WHILE THE REPORTS SEEM TO BE ABOUT A CERTAIN INCIDENT AT FIRST GLANCE, IT TURNS OUT THERE'S A DEEPER MESSAGE BURIED IN THE TEXT.

...IT'S REVEALED THAT THE LATTER HALF OF THESE REPORTS WERE WRITTEN BY SOMEONE POSING AS "A".

MY NEXT BOOK?

I WANT TO FORMAT THE STORY AS TOLD THROUGH REPORTS WRITTEN BY A REPORTER, "A".

BUT TOWARDS THE END OF THE BOOK...

KO-
MOTO.

THERE'S SOMETHIN' I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO.

HM?

expected to get everything

If it looks like we'll have to
even longer, I'll send Koda

I apologize again for the inc

Let me know your thoughts
Please give my regards to

Katsumi Kureko

KUREKO'S NEVER THIS FORMAL IN EMAILS...

THAT'S RIGHT ...

DID THEY COLLABO-RATE WITH A LOCAL DJ OR SOME-THING?

I GAVE IT A LISTEN EARLIER, BUT MINARE WAS THE ONE RAPPING.

WEIRD.

APPARENTLY, THEY RE-RECORDED THE RAP IN WASSAMU.

IT'S THE OPENING FOR THE NOVEMBER FIRST SHOW.

OH, YEAH?

...

MATO-SAN...

HM?

MIND IF I DROP THE PITCH AND PLAY IT BACK-WARDS?

WELL, IT'S NOT HARD TO BEAT THE LAST ONE...

HEY...

THIS AIN'T HALF BAD.

YOU HAVE A VISITOR.

MATO-SAN.

I DIDN'T WANT TO RISK CALLING AND WAKING YOU UP.

HEY, THERE, NAKAHARA-KUN! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

SORRY TO BUG YOU SO LATE...

I FIGURED SHE MUST'VE CALLED MRS BY NOW, SO I THOUGHT I'D DROP BY...

I LISTENED TO MINARE-SAN'S SHOW EARLIER, BUT I STILL CAN'T SEEM TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HER.

WE GOT AN EMAIL FROM KUREKO WITH THE PROGRAM, BUT NO WORD FROM MINARE...

...elp...

UNFORTU-NATELY, WE STILL HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER, EITHER.

...inna building inda mountains...

...ease send helllp...

...please send heeelp...

...wer bing eld capitiviv...

...can't geddout...

...cult tookus prizner...

WHIP

FREEZE, DAMN IT!

WHO'RE YOU HERE TO SEE?!

RITSUKOOOO!

TAKE ME TO RITSUKO RIGHT NOW!

YOU CAN CHANGE HER NAME, BUT I'D KNOW HER VOICE ANY-WHERE!

I KNOW SHE'S HERE!

MATO-SAN.

KOMOTO...

RITSU-KOOO!

QUIT SQUIRM-ING!

...I GO LOOK FOR THEM?

IS IT OKAY IF...

HUH? YEAH, WHY?

NAKAHARA-KUN, YOU DROVE HERE, RIGHT?

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO ASK YOU TO.

GO FOR IT.

MIND GIVING ME A LIFT TO WASSAMU ASAP?

NOW?!

HUH?!

WE SHOULD MAKE IT IN TWO HOURS IF WE HURRY.

I'LL PAY FOR GAS.

YOU'RE MINARE KODA'S ONLY HOPE OF EVER RETURNING FROM WASSAMU!

WE'VE GOT AN EMER-GENCY ON OUR HANDS!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE RECORD-ING?

SERIOUSLY ...?

...

SO, UHH...

...WHY ARE *YOU* TAGGING ALONG?

HUH?! *WHY?!*

WHY THE HELL *WOULDN'T* I GO?!

RITSUKO'S IN THE SAME STUDIO AS MINARE KODA!

ALL RIGHT! HIT IT!

I'M GONNA BE STUCK WITH THEM ON THE WAY BACK, TOO, AREN'T I?

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 6.